FOREIGN
BROADCAST
INFORMATION
SERVICE

Daily Report

East Asia

FBIS-EAS-93-041
Thursday
4 March 1993

Daily Report
East Asia

FBIS-EAS-93-041 CONTENTS *4 March 1993*

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

NORTHEAST ASIA

Japan

LDP Poised for Budget Vote *[KYODO]* 1
    LDP, Opposition Compromise *[Tokyo TV]* 1
    Finance Ministry 'Bewildered' *[KYODO]* 1
U.S. Semiconductor Talks To Start 22 Mar *[KYODO]* 2
Steel Firm Refuses U.S. Cost Data Request *[KYODO]* 2
Watanabe To Resume Duties 5 Mar *[KYODO]* 2
ROK President Seeks Early Miyazawa Summit *[KYODO]* 3
Kuwait Seeks Miyazawa's Help on Iraqi-Held Prisoners *[KYODO]* 3
Russia Opposes G-7 Territorial Dispute Role *[KYODO]* 3
Government Mission Departs for Mozambique, Zimbabwe *[KYODO]* 3
Ministry Announces Flood Recovery Loan to Pakistan *[KYODO]* 4
Aid Announcement Readied for Ramos Visit *[KYODO]* 4
SDPJ Urged To Recognize Seoul's Legitimacy *[KYODO]* 4
Spokesman Avers Veracity of 'Comfort Women' Reports *[KYODO]* 5
LDP Finalizes Political Reform Plan Draft *[KYODO]* 5
MITI Wary of Dollar Reaching 115 Yen Level *[KYODO]* 6
Government Debt To Reach 219 Trillion Yen by March 1994 *[KYODO]* 6
Nonferrous Metal Makers Seek Tax Cuts *[KYODO]* 6
    Stores Ask MITI for Cut *[KYODO]* 6
Business Leader Urges 'Drastic' Economic Measures *[KYODO]* 7
Toyota Suspends Hiring Outside 'Conventional' Period *[KYODO]* 7
Scholars Urge Easing Rice Output Adjustment *[KYODO]* 7
Takeshita Promises Technology Exchange With ROK *[KYODO]* 7
Next-Generation Telecom System Targetted *[KYODO]* 8

North Korea

ROK-U.S. Team Spirit Exercise Reported 8
    U.S. Troop Withdrawal Urged *[Pyongyang Radio]* 8
    KCNA: U.S. To Mobilize B-1B 10
    KCNA: F-16's Flown in From Japan 10
Pyongyang Asks Beijing To Write Off Debt *[KYODO]* 10
Cameroonian Delegation Leaves Pyongyang 2 Mar *[Pyongyang Radio]* 10
KCNA Highlights Construction Project Progress 11
KCNA Reviews 4 March Pyongyang Press 11

South Korea

North Reportedly Sends Tanks, Anti-Air Guns to Yongbyon *[CHOSON ILBO 4 Mar]* 12
PRC Spokesman Cited on Nuclear Issue, Missiles *[YONHAP]* 12
North Reportedly Sends Protest Letter to PRC *[Seoul Radio]* 13
Garden Controversy Ousts Seoul Mayor 13
    Illegal Greenbelt Conversion *[YONHAP]* 13
    Resignation Accepted *[YONHAP]* 13
Dissident Labor Group Meets Kim Aides *[YONHAP]* 13
Kim Yong-sam To Refuse Political Contributions *[YONHAP]* 14
Kim's Government To Create New Economic Plan *[YONHAP]* 14
Kim Stresses Importance of Japanese Ties *[YONHAP]* 14

Agricultural, Fishery Proposal to North Readied *[HANGYORE SINMUN 3 Mar]* 15
Vietnam Travel Restrictions To Lift 8 Mar *[YONHAP]* 15
Companies Receive Invitations to Pyongyang *[YONHAP]* 15
Group To Visit Moscow To Discuss Downed Aircraft *[YONHAP]* 16
Hebei Economic Delegation Arrives in Seoul *[YONHAP]* 16
ROK To Merge Sports, Culture; Energy, Trade Ministries *[YONHAP]* 16
YONHAP Profiles New Vice Foreign Minister 16
Opposition Party Criticizes Kim for Compromising Reforms *[THE KOREA TIMES 4 Mar]* 16
Prosecution Investigates 1987 Attack on Party Founding *[YONHAP]* 17
ROK Records 1992 Trade Surplus With PRC *[YONHAP]* 18
Domestic Intelligence Expert Appointed NSP Deputy *[YONHAP]* 18
CIA Industrial Data Collection Plan Examined *[CHOSON ILBO 3 Mar]* 18
Government Appoints New Vice Ministers *[Seoul Radio]* 19
Spokesman Names New Provincial Governors, City Mayors *[Seoul TV]* 20
* Democratic Party's Future After Kim Tae-chung 20
    Nationwide Support Base *[MAEIL KYONGJE 20 Jan]* 20
    DP Needs Fresh Start *[TONGA ILBO 16 Jan]* 22
* Priorities for New Administration Listed 23
    Ten Priority Issues *[HANGUK ILBO 1 Jan]* 23
    More Priority Tasks Disclosed *[TONGA ILBO 9 Jan]* 27
* NSP Braces for Shake-Up Under New Republic *[CHUGAN CHOSON 4 Feb]* 28
* North Fires Southern Affairs Chief Yun Ki-pok *[CHUNGANG ILBO 27 Jan]* 31

SOUTHEAST ASIA

Burma

Alternate Chairman Addresses Plenary Session *[Rangoon Radio]* 33
3 March Panel Discussions Reported *[Rangoon Radio]* 33
Paper Slams Foreign 'Meddling' *[Rangoon Radio]* 34
Minister Criticize Nobel Laureates' Mission *[Rangoon Radio]* 36
SLORC Chairman Meets Visiting PRC Group *[Rangoon Radio]* 37
    PRC Delegation Departs *[Rangoon Radio]* 37

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Defense Ministry To Study Russia's Jet Offer *[Kuala Lumpur International]* 37
Attorney General: 11 Feb Rulers' Meeting Valid *[NEW STRAITS TIMES 27 Feb]* 37
    Speaker Defends Session's Validity *[NEW STRAITS TIMES 1 Mar]* 38
    Sultan Criticizes Federal Leaders *[NEW STRAITS TIMES 2 Mar]* 39

Cambodia

UN Spokesman: Khmer Rouge Attack Stoung *[AFP]* 39
Paper Urges Quelling 'Anti-Vietnamese Obsession' *[Bangkok THE NATION 4 Mar]* 40
UNTAC Disclosure of SRV Troops 'Propaganda' *[Radio VGNUFC]* 41
Radio Details Sihanouk Reconciliation Plan *[Radio VGNUFC]* 42
    Khieu Samphan, Son Sen Support Plan *[Radio VGNUFC]* 42
Hun Sen Visits Kampot Province 26 Feb-1 Mar *[Phnom Penh Radio]* 43

Indonesia

Parliamentarians Criticize Singapore Air Accord *[THE INDONESIA TIMES 13 Feb]* 43
Paper Views PNG Premier's Visit to Indonesia *[THE INDONESIA TIMES 15 Feb]* 44

Laos

President Receives Vietnamese Party Delegation *[KPL]* 44
Leaders, Guests Attend Cremation of Sisomphon *[KPL]* 44

SRV Delegation Leaves for Home *[Hanoi Radio]* 45
Premier Issues Rice Production Instruction *[Vientiane Radio]* 45
Border Cooperation Committee Meets Thai Side *[KPL]* 46
Phoun Sipaseut Receives UNFPA Executive Director *[KPL]* 47

Philippines

Military To Take More Active UN, ASEAN Role *[BUSINESS WORLD 4 Mar]* 47
Ramos Rejects Settlement Offer From Westinghouse *[MANILA STANDARD 4 Mar]* 48
Senate President Calls for 'International Diplomacy' *[MALAYA 4 Mar]* 49
Security Concerns Stall Talks With RAM *[Quezon City TV]* 49
Ranking Red Scorpion Group Leader Surrenders *[Quezon City TV]* 49
Ex-Assemblyman, 3 Others Killed in Boat Explosion *[Quezon City Radio]* 49
Semiconductors Lead 1992 Exports *[MALAYA 3 Mar]* 50

Thailand

Son Sann: 'Huge Number' of Vietnamese in Cambodia *[MATICHON 4 Mar]* 50
Border Crossing Point With Cambodia To Open *[Bangkok Radio]* 50
Group To Sign Cambodia Telecom Contracts 3 Mar *[BANGKOK POST 3 Mar]* 50
2 Burmese Soldiers Freed, 5 Thais Still Held *[BANGKOK POST 2 mar]* 51
    Burma Releases Five, Averts Dispute *[THE NATION 3 Mar]* 51
    Burma Border Crossings Restricted *[THE NATION 4 Mar]* 52
Deputy Premier Meets SRV Envoy on Rice Trade *[Radio VOFA]* 52
Talks With U.S. on Garment Export Quota Fail *[THE NATION 3 Mar]* 52
Japan Urges Open Market Access for Investors *[THE NATION 3 Mar]* 53
New Air Service Agreement With PRC Approved *[Bangkok Radio]* 53
Canadian Minister Promotes Nuclear Power Exports *[BANGKOK POST 2 Mar]* 54

Vietnam

Hanoi Rejects UNTAC Charges on Troop Presence *[Hanoi Radio]* 54
Vice Premier Views Cooperation in SE Asia *[VNA]* 55
Premier Attends Justice Ministry Conference *[Hanoi Radio]* 55
1,230 Party Members Dismissed for Corruption *[Hanoi Radio]* 56
City Forms Friendship Association With PRC *[VNA]* 56
First Processing Zone To Be Built in Da Nang *[Hanoi Radio]* 56
Ministry Reviews Radio, Television Performances *[Hanoi Radio]* 56
Conference on Broadcasting, Television Opens *[VNA]* 57

AUSTRALASIA

Australia

Evans: PNG Relations 'In Excellent Shape' *[Melbourne International]* 58
Deficit Jumps Almost 3 Percent to $168 Billion *[Melbourne International]* 58

New Zealand

Minister Tells Russians Debt Must Be Cleared *[Melbourne International]* 58

Japan

LDP Poised for Budget Vote

OW0403063793 Tokyo KYODO in English 0619 GMT 4 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 4 KYODO—The dominant Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) aims to get the fiscal 1993 budget bill to clear a key parliamentary hurdle Friday [5 March] despite the opposition's boycott of the legislature Thursday, Diet sources said.

The LDP plans to put the 72.35 trillion yen budget to the vote at the House of Representatives Budget Committee and the full lower house Friday to enact the bill before the next fiscal year starts April 1, the sources said. Failure to win lower house approval Friday would inhibit enactment by April 1, making it necessary to compile a stopgap budget. The LDP opened sessions of eight lower house subcommittees Thursday morning without the presence of opposition parties.

Opposition legislators refused to attend the sessions in protest to the LDP's resumption of lower house budgetary deliberations Wednesday in their absence following LDP rejection of large-scale income tax cuts, the sources said. Lower house budget committee directors from four opposition parties lodged a protest Thursday with committee chairman Shigeru Kasuya for the LDP's forced opening of budgetary debates Wednesday, the sources said.

Three opposition parties—the Social Democratic Party [of Japan—SDPJ] (SDP), Komeito, and the Democratic Socialist Party (DSP)—Reportedly reaffirmed they will take a unified stand over their joint call for tax reductions worth 4.26 trillion yen.

Although Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa discussed with LDP leaders the rift with the opposition, solutions are yet to be found, the sources said. Miyazawa reportedly instructed the leaders to knuckle down and get the budget passed through the lower house Friday.

Many analysts said the lower house plenary session could fall into disorder if the LDP votes on the bill at the committee session without opposition party members present. There is a possibility the ruling and opposition parties may ask lower house Speaker Yoshio Sakurauchi to act as a mediator, the sources said.

The SDP, Komeito, and the DSP presented their joint budget revision plan last week calling for tax reductions amounting to 4.26 trillion yen to lift Japan out of its economic slump.

LDP, Opposition Compromise

OW0403125993 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1000 GMT 4 Mar 93

[From "NHK News" program]

[Text] The ruling and opposition parties continued their confrontation over the tax cuts issue leaving the current Diet session stalled. The secretary generals of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party [LDP], the main opposition Social Democratic Party of Japan [SDPJ], the Komeito, and the Socialist Democratic Party [SDP] held a meeting just a while ago. During the meeting, the opposition accepted a proposal from the LDP that it will positively study income tax cuts, and the draft budget for fiscal 1993 is expected to pass the House of Representatives tomorrow, or on 5 March.

While the opposition has demanded drastic income tax cuts, the LDP has refused to go along with the opposition's demand. The secretary generals of the ruling and opposition parties held the meeting at 1800 [0900 GMT] this evening. At the meeting, LDP Secretary General Kajiyama made a compromise proposal that the LDP will positively study income tax cuts and the secretary generals of the opposition parties accepted Kajiyama's proposal. During the meeting, they agreed to resume the House of Representatives Budget Committee tomorrow to deliberate the draft budget for fiscal 1993, after discussing how to proceed with the committee. They also agreed to pass the draft budget in the House of Representatives on 5 march, and to immediately forward the daft budget to the House of Councillors. As a result, it has become unnecessary to compile a provisional budget for fiscal 1993.

Now that the ruling and opposition parties have reached agreement on the tax cuts issue, the confrontation between the ruling and opposition parties over the issue, that has continued since 1 March, has now ended. The SDPJ, the Komeito, and the SDP demanded a 4.26 trillion yen cut in income tax, whereas the LDP refused to go along with the opposition demand, arguing that the government cannot issue deficit-covering national bonds to secure financial resources and that the opposition demand was unreasonable.

The ruling and opposition parties are believed to have reached a compromise because of their concern that if their confrontation continues to delay the enactment of the draft budget for fiscal 1993 at the Diet, amid protracted economic stagnation, they might come under public criticism.

Finance Ministry 'Bewildered'

OW0403131793 Tokyo KYODO in English 1256 GMT 4 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 4 KYODO—The Ministry of Finance is bewildered by a concession the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) made on Thursday to an opposition demand for an income tax reduction, ministry officials said.

"We hadn't expected the move at all. Is it appropriate to consider a tax cut without debates on how to finance it?" Asked a ranking official at the ministry's Budget Bureau.

In a bid to break an impasse over parliamentary discussions on the fiscal 1993 budget, the governing party agreed in principle with the opposition's demand for an income tax reduction, though it gave no indication of how large this might be.

The budget debate has hit a snag since Monday over the opposition's demand for a 4.26 trillion yen tax cut as a condition for supporting the budget bill through the lower house's budget committee.

The Finance Ministry is firmly opposed to any income tax reduction as a means of further economic stimulation, citing the likely weak impact of such action on the economy and the tight state finances.

However, some ministry officials accepted the political deal, which would pave the way for the 72.35 trillion yen budget to clear its last parliamentary hurdle by the end of March and to be implemented in April.

U.S. Semiconductor Talks To Start 22 Mar

OW0403043293 Tokyo KYODO in English 0403 GMT 4 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 4 KYODO—Japan and the United States will have two days of talks starting March 22 in Hawaii to discuss the share of foreign-made microchips in the Japanese market, trade ministry officials said Thursday [4 March].

The talks will focus on the share at the end of 1992, figures on which will be available at a meeting of experts on semiconductor trade from the two countries expected to start around March 16 in Hawaii, the officials of the Ministry of International Trade and Industry said.

Given the expectation that foreign-made microchips may fail to reach a 20 percent market share as targeted under the 1991 bilateral semiconductor accord, the U.S. is expected to press Japan during the talks to do something to improve the foreign share, they said.

The semiconductor talks, originally scheduled for February, were postponed due to a lack of preparation by the U.S. side just after the inauguration of the new U.S. Administration, and rescheduled for when the market share figures for 1992 would be available, the officials said.

Steel Firm Refuses U.S. Cost Data Request

OW0403102993 Tokyo KYODO in English 1018 GMT 4 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 4 KYODO—Kawasaki Steel Corp. has refused a U.S. request to disclose steel production cost data Washington needs to validate its recent ruling that Japanese steelmakers are "dumping" their products, company officials said Thursday.

The officials said the company informed the U.S. Government by the end of February it would not present such documents, citing their importance to corporate management.

Sumitomo Metal Industries Ltd. has already declined the U.S. request, while Nippon Steel Corp. and NKK Corp. say they are "considering" presenting their data.

In its preliminary ruling in late January, the U.S. Commerce Department decided to slap temporary penalties on steel imports from Japan and 18 other nations, saying they are being sold at prices lower than charged at home and unfairly hurt the U.S. industry.

Collecting cost data is part of the proceedings for the department to definitely determine its stance on the charge, originally filed by the U.S. steel industry, until a final ruling slated for June.

Industry sources said past cases show a company which has refused to disclose cost data will face more than 100 percent punitive duties in addition to ordinary tariffs.

Watanabe To Resume Duties 5 Mar

OW0403084693 Tokyo KYODO in English 0827 GMT 4 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 4 KYODO—Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe, who has been in hospital for more than two weeks, will resume his duties as foreign minister from Friday [5 March], Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa said Thursday.

Miyazawa told reporters he received a telephone call from Watanabe on Thursday [4 March] afternoon saying he would commute to parliamentary sessions from the hospital. The prime minister said Watanabe told him he would like to attend the question time that will wrap up the House of Representatives budget committee sessions. "He sounded well," Miyazawa said.

Watanabe, also deputy prime minister, entered a university hospital in Tokyo on February 15 after suddenly suspending his attendance at a lower house session shortly upon returning from the United States. Watanabe's family and aides said he was suffering from a cold and exhaustion from overwork. Doctors initially said he would need to stay in the hospital for two weeks at the most, but this has been prolonged due to a slow recovery.

After Watanabe resumes his duties as foreign minister, the government will relieve Chief Cabinet Secretary Yohei Kono as acting foreign minister.

In late May 1992, Watanabe was admitted to hospital because of gallstones and an infected biliary tract. He resumed his duties in July after being off for 40 days.

ROK President Seeks Early Miyazawa Summit

OW0403034093 Tokyo KYODO in English 0314 GMT 4 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 4 KYODO—Newly installed South Korean President Kim Yong-sam has requested an early summit meeting with Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, government officials said Thursday. Kim Chae-son, president of the South Korea-Japan Parliamentarian League, delivered a letter from Kim containing the request to Miyazawa at the prime minister's official residence. Miyazawa showed a positive stance to Kim's proposal, the officials said.

South Korea's first civilian president in 32 years has indicated that in promoting Seoul-Tokyo relations he plans to urge Japan to resolve issues associated with Japan's 1910-45 colonial rule of the peninsula, including forced prostitution of Korean women for Japanese soldiers during World War II. Chief Cabinet Secretary Yohei Kono said late last month that a concrete schedule for summit talks between Miyazawa and Kim has not yet been discussed.

Kuwait Seeks Miyazawa's Help on Iraqi-Held Prisoners

OW0403065093 Tokyo KYODO in English 0622 GMT 4 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 4 KYODO—Kuwait asked Japan on Thursday to cooperate in winning the release of some 800 Kuwaiti prisoners still held captive by Iraq two years after the Persian Gulf war, a Foreign Ministry official said.

Education Minister Ahmad 'Abdallah al-Rab'i, a special envoy for Kuwaiti Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, made the request in a meeting with Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, the official said. Rab'i is touring Asian capitals to appeal for the prisoners' release, according to a Kuwait embassy spokeswoman.

In the 15-minute meeting, Rab'i also sought support for Kuwait on the issue of Iraqi border infringements, the ministry official said. Miyazawa replied that Japan will ask Iraq to make efforts to resolve the matters in line with United Nations Security Council resolutions, the official said.

Rab'i also delivered a letter from Crown Prince Sa'ad al-Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah expressing appreciation for Japan's humanitarian assistance in Somalia, the official said.

Russia Opposes G-7 Territorial Dispute Role

OW0403083593 Tokyo KYODO in English 0824 GMT 4 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 4 KYODO—Russia opposes any reference to its territorial dispute with Japan in a political declaration to be issued at the July summit of leaders of the Group of Seven (G-7) industrial nations, a Russian diplomat in Tokyo said Thursday. The diplomat, speaking to reporters on condition of anonymity, said Russia "does not consider this as necessarily the best way to achieve a real settlement of the problem." He said that from Moscow's perspective, such a development at the annual summit to be held in Tokyo "would not be welcome," although at the same time it would not be viewed as a "tragedy."

A reference to the territorial issue made in the G-7 political declaration signed at last July's summit held in Munich did not facilitate a territorial settlement, he said.

The diplomat warned that it might even have had an boomerang effect by hindering progress on the dispute, in which Japan is demanding that Russia return four islands off Hokkaido that were seized by the Soviet military after Japan's World War II surrender.

At Tokyo's insistence, Japan's G-7 partners at Munich agreed to a neutral reference to the dispute over the islands of Kunashiri, Shikotan, Etorofu, and the Habomai group of islets.

The declaration said the G-7 leaders support Russia's commitment to a foreign policy based on law and justice, and that they "believe this represents a basis for a full normalization of the Russia-Japanese relationship through resolving the territorial issue."

The G-7 comprises Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, and the United States. Russian President Boris Yeltsin is expected to be invited to join the summit leaders in Tokyo after their meeting, just as he did in Munich.

The diplomat said, "we do not see how the inclusion of propagandistic references can lead to a settlement." He said Russia is also opposed to seeing the territorial dispute taken up as a separate topic in the summit talks, adding that Russia is of the belief that G-7 countries other than Japan feel likewise.

Government Mission Departs for Mozambique, Zimbabwe

OW0403051193 Tokyo KYODO in English 0430 GMT 4 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 4 KYODO—A government research mission left Tokyo for Mozambique Thursday to explore the possibility of Japan's participation in the UN peacekeeping operations in the African country. The eight-member team, headed by Masaki Konishi, deputy director general for the Foreign Ministry's United Nations Bureau, plans to conduct research on the current situation in Mozambique. The mission will also visit neighboring Zimbabwe, which has received many refugees fleeing from Mozambique, Foreign Ministry officials said. The team is slated to return home on March 16.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Masamichi Hanabusa has said that the government will decide whether to take part in the UN mission in Mozambique after the survey team returns.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Yohei Kono, who is concurrently acting foreign minister due to the ill health of Michio Watanabe, had earlier said the government would put off a decision on the dispatch of peacekeepers to Mozambique for the time being, saying it is important for Japan to concentrate on peacekeeping operations in Cambodia.

Ministry Announces Flood Recovery Loan to Pakistan

OW0403063493 Tokyo KYODO in English 0604 GMT 4 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 4 KYODO—Japan and Pakistan exchanged notes Thursday on providing Pakistan with a loan of some 12.2 billion yen to help it cope with damage caused by a flood last summer, the Foreign Ministry said.

The loan will carry an annual interest rate of 2.6 percent and is untied, meaning that Pakistan is not required to use the money for purchases of goods and services from Japan, the ministry said. The relief loan follows a grant-in-aid worth 1 million U.S. dollars extended to Pakistan last summer immediately after the floods.

Aid Announcement Readied for Ramos Visit

OW0403130393 Tokyo KYODO in English 1200 GMT 4 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 4 KYODO—Japan will announce fresh economic assistance to the Philippines during a state visit by President Fidel Ramos next week, Foreign Ministry officials said Thursday. Preparations are underway so Japan's 18th yen loan package for the Philippines can be announced during Ramos' March 9-13 visit, the officials said. They said Tokyo also expects to be ready to announce separate loans for Manila from the Export-Import Bank of Japan as well as some government grants. Ramos is scheduled to hold talks on March 10 with Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, who bypassed the Philippines during his visit to Southeast Asia in January.

The officials said the importance Ramos attaches to ties with Japan is reflected in the fact it will be the first country outside the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) he has visited since taking office last June. ASEAN groups the Philippines, Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand. Ramos has visited all except Indonesia.

The officials indicated Miyazawa would not bring up the issue of Filipino women who say they had been forced to provide sex to frontline Japanese soldiers during World War II. But they said he would explain Japan's position on the issue if asked by Ramos.

Ramos reportedly plans to propose setting up a foundation to avail financial support to such women as a way for Japan to express its remorse. He told reporters in Manila last Monday, "the important thing is to discuss the matter together and out of the media because it is a very emotional issue."

Officials said Miyazawa and Ramos are likely to discuss the regional security situation and the departure of U.S. forces from bases in the Philippines.

The Philippines has voiced support for Miyazawa's call for a political and security dialogue among Asia-Pacific nations, utilizing such forums as the annual ASEAN post-ministerial conference.

Philippine Ambassador to Japan Domingo Siazon told reporters Wednesday that Asia-Pacific countries should consider eventually setting up a regional version of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe as a forum for collective security.

Manila is anxious to see a continued U.S. military presence in the region, where there is a danger of a flare-up of the territorial dispute between the Philippines, China, Taiwan, Vietnam and Malaysia over the spratly islands in the South China Sea.

Siazon said the topics for discussion between Ramos and Miyazawa will also include Indochina and the prospects for peace in Cambodia, the Uruguay round of global trade negotiations and July's annual summit in Tokyo of the group of seven economic powers.

SDPJ Urged To Recognize Seoul's Legitimacy

OW0403123793 Tokyo KYODO in English 0954 GMT 4 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 4 KYODO—A senior South Korean politician on Thursday [4 March] urged the Social Democratic Party [of Japan] (SDP) [SDPJ], Japan's largest opposition party, to recognize Seoul as a legitimate government, making such recognition a precondition for the SDP chairman's visit to South Korea.

Kim Jai-son, the new chairman of the South Korea-Japan Parliamentarians League, made the demand in a meeting with three top executives of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), party officials said. In the talks at LDP headquarters, Kim was quoted as saying he wants the SDP to legally recognize South Korea before a visit by SDP Chairman Sadao Yamahana to Seoul can be realized. Yamahana is trying to seek a party consensus to visit South Korea in May. No SDP chief has ever visited Seoul. Yamahana, who took over the party leadership from Makoto Tanabe in early January, has also instructed the party's "shadow cabinet" to review its policy toward South Korea.

The SDP, which has a close relationship with Seoul's archrival, North Korea, has not yet recognized Seoul as a legitimate government. The party has also ignored the

1965 Japan-South Korea Basic Treaty, which set up diplomatic relations between Tokyo and Seoul.

On the possibility of SDP members joining in the parliamentarians' group, Kim asked the SDP to make public its policy toward South Korea and to seek Seoul's response through the LDP, the officials said.

LDP Secretary General Seiroku Kajiyama was quoted as replying that he wants the SDP to draw up a "realistic" policy toward South Korea on the basis of the bilateral treaty and past exchanges between the two countries. Kim, a former speaker of South Korea's unicameral national assembly, is in Japan until Saturday [6 March] to meet Japanese leaders.

Spokesman Avers Veracity of 'Comfort Women' Reports

OW0403122093 Tokyo KYODO in English 1056 GMT 4 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 4 KYODO—Japan does not think South Korean women who say they were enslaved as military prostitutes during World War II are lying, but it still wants to find written evidence of the use of force, the top government spokesman said Thursday [4 March].

The government is continuing to search archives because it believes historic documentation would help "gain objective consent from as many people as possible," that, indeed, the women were recruited against their will, Chief Cabinet Secretary Yohei Kono said.

In an official statement issued last July, the government said a six-month search of wartime files revealed government involvement in the recruitment and management of military brothels, but there was no evidence that force had been used.

At the time, then chief cabinet secretary Koichi Kato did not give a clear answer as to whether the government regards testimony by former "comfort women" as truthful.

On Thursday, Kono, asked whether he thought the women who said they were duped or coerced to work in frontline brothels might be lying, replied emphatically, "we don't think so at all."

The new South Korean administration of President Kim Yong-sam has signaled it expects Tokyo to acknowledge those women did not willfully engage in sex with Japanese soldiers.

Kono at the daily news conference conceded that historic documents might not contain the sought-after evidence even if force had been used to round up young women and girls. But he said the government is at a loss about what sort of data would provide sufficient confirmation.

A senior government official speaking on condition of anonymity said there were some objections to using personal testimonies by the scores of former comfort women as evidence because it may not be "objective." But he said that it is highly unlikely recruiters were given written orders to use force. "Evidence alone may not be able to heal the wounds." Another government source indicated Japan would reveal results of its additional survey on comfort women in July.

An estimated 100,000 to 200,000 women, mostly Korean, were taken to frontline brothels to serve Japanese soldiers as prostitutes, according to historians. Three South Korean women first filed suit against the Japanese Government in December 1991 seeking an official apology and payment of compensation.

LDP Finalizes Political Reform Plan Draft

OW0403075193 Tokyo KYODO in English 0646 GMT 4 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 4 KYODO—The ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) on Thursday [4 March] drew up outlines of two bills on political funds, thus completing the drafting of a four-bill political reform package, party officials said. The two bills aim at tightening control on political funds and establishing a system to subsidize political parties in an attempt to stem political corruption.

The LDP on Tuesday unveiled the two other reform bills designed to revise the electoral system. The draft revision of the political funds control law sets a ceiling on the number of fund-raising organizations per politician. Up to two organizations are allowed to handle political funds under the revision. Currently, politicians can set up any number of fund-raising groups.

Political contributions from a single organization such as private company or labor union to a designated fund-raising body will be limited to 240,000 yen a year.

The revision also sets the minimum amount of corporate donations that fund-raising groups must make public at 120,000 yen a year, compared with 1 million yen at present. The draft bill also stipulates that political organizations must make public all donations they receive of 10,000 yen or more, compared with 1 million yen now. Both revisions are intended to make the flow of political funds more open, the LDP officials said.

The draft bill, however, raises the maximum amount that corporations and organizations can donate to a political party to 200 million yen a year from 100 million yen at present. It also raises the minimum amount of corporate donations from a single entity that a party must make public to 100,000 yen from 10,000 yen a year.

The draft subsidy bill aims at providing political parties with subsidies form the state coffers every year. To qualify for subsidies, political parties are required to have five or more members in the Diet and to have gained more than 3 percent of the votes in the most recent national election.

The figure for the total amount of political subsidies every year will be obtained by multiplying the entire population in the most recent national census by 250 yen. The subsidies will be distributed among parties in proportion to such factors as their number of Diet members and votes for them in elections.

The other two electoral reform bills issued earlier by the LDP call for the establishment of a single-seat constituency system for the House of Representatives and creating a parliamentary panel to redraw lower chamber electoral districts.

The LDP will formally approve the four reform bills at a meeting of its Executive Council slated for late this month, the officials said.

MITI Wary of Dollar Reaching 115 Yen Level

OW0403075093 Tokyo KYODO in English 0654 GMT 4 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 4 KYODO—An exchange rate of around 115 yen to the U.S. dollar could badly affect corporate earnings as Japan's economy remains sluggish, the vice trade minister said Thursday [4 March]. Yuji Tanahashi, vice minister at the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI), said at a press conference, "I'm worried that corporate earnings might plunge due to the yen's rapid gain."

"If the exchange rate remains around the level of 115 to 116 yen as at present, most small- and medium-sized companies might fall into the red," Tanahashi said, while advocating the yen's moderate appreciation.

In foreign exchange dealings Thursday morning in Tokyo, the U.S. dollar fell to a record intraday low of 116.15 yen, but recovered ground later.

Turning to the effects of a stronger yen, Tanahashi said, "Prices of imported goods like branded clothing have not somehow changed enough" in line with the yen's appreciation. In this regard, he said it is necessary to review Japan's rather complicated distribution system from a consumer-oriented point of view. He said MITI intends to investigate the distribution system item by item, which he said would take about six months, with a view to passing on to consumers some of the windfall profits from exchange rate fluctuations.

Government Debt To Reach 219 Trillion Yen by March 1994

OW0403121993 Tokyo KYODO in English 1125 GMT 4 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 4 KYODO—The Japanese Government's debts will amount to 219 trillion yen as of March 31, 1994, including 37 trillion yen so far unreported, the Finance Ministry disclosed Thursday [4 March].

In a report submitted to the House of Councillors budget committee, the ministry said government debts, excluding government bond issues, will reach 37,157.6 billion yen at the end of fiscal 1993. The ministry disclosed earlier that the balance of government bond issues at that time will total about 182 trillion yen.

The newly disclosed debts included long-term debts of 26 trillion yen which the government-backed JNR Settlement Corp. took over from the defunct Japanese National Railways (JNR) when it was privatized and split up into seven companies.

Nonferrous Metal Makers Seek Tax Cuts

OW0303045293 Tokyo KYODO in English 0425 GMT 3 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 3 KYODO—Nonferrous metal manufacturers called for income tax and housing tax cuts Wednesday [3 March] as part of additional pump-priming measures to revive the economy, trade ministry officials said.

Executives of the Japan Brass Makers Association, the Japan Aluminum Federation, and the Japanese Electric Wire and Cable Makers' Association made the request in a meeting with International Trade and Industry Minister Yoshiro Mori, the officials said.

Mori replied that he has urged his ministry to study improvement of the infrastructure as part of additional pump-priming measures, the officials said.

Hiooji Hashimoto, president of the Cable Makers' Association, stressed the importance of improving the telecommunications infrastructure, they said.

Katsumi Uchida, president of the Aluminum Federation, asked Mori not to agree to cut import tariffs on aluminum unilaterally in the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade talks but to seek a harmonized agreement among Japan, the United States, and the European Community, they said.

Stores Ask MITI for Cut

OW0403041493 Tokyo KYODO in English 0306 GMT 4 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 4 KYODO—A national organization of department stores called Thursday for a large-scale income tax cut to stimulate individual consumption, trade ministry officials said. Executives of the Japan Department Stores Association made the request in a meeting with International Trade and Industry Minister Yoshiro Mori, the officials said.

Yoshiaki Sakakura, president of the association, told Mori that "a bold income tax cut is a quick remedy to restore consumers' confidence."

"An income tax cut will be a bright factor even if it goes into savings," the officials quoted Sakakura as saying.

Mori replied that it is necessary to discuss whether an income tax cut would be sure to stimulate consumption rather than whether it is bad or good from the viewpoint of financial resources, the officials said. Sakakura also asked for measures to expand imports, such as lowering tariffs on processed goods like candy and shirts, and simplifying customs clearance procedures. He explained that department stores have made efforts to provide imports with reasonable prices because consumers have become much more price-conscious, the officials said.

Business Leader Urges 'Drastic' Economic Measures

OW0403123593 Tokyo KYODO in English 1028 GMT 4 Mar 93

[Text] Okayama, March 4 KYODO—The government should take drastic measures to revive the sluggish economy if necessary, one of the nation's top business leaders said Thursday [4 March].

Gaishi Hiraiwa, chairman of the Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren), appealing for an early Diet passage of the fiscal 1993 budget, said that drastic and comprehensive economic measures should be taken if the budget turns out to be insufficient to revive the economy.

Hiraiwa was speaking at a press conference here as Diet debate remained stalled over the budget, which features much of the pump- priming package announced last year. Asked to comment on the yen's sharp advance against the dollar, Hiraiwa said he will be happy if the yen-dollar rate stabilizes at the current level.

The dollar closed at 116.98 yen in Tokyo on Thursday, up 0.23 yen from Wednesday's close of 116.75 yen. At one point, it hit a new temporary low in Tokyo of 116.15 yen.

In a speech at a business symposium following the press conference, Hiraiwa said the government should take measures to boost domestic demand as a way to trim Japan's huge trade surplus because a stronger yen could serve to expand the surplus due to the so-called J-curve distortion.

If the dollar falls to the 118 yen level from the 125 yen level, it will translate into an additional 2 billion dollars to the surplus in fiscal 1993 alone, he said.

Toyota Suspends Hiring Outside 'Conventional' Period

OW0303052793 Tokyo KYODO in English 0454 GMT 3 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 3 KYODO—Toyota Motor Corp. has stopped hiring full-time production workers outside the conventional recruiting period, citing falling output because of weak demand for automobiles, company officials said Wednesday [3 March].

Japan's top automaker suspended from this month the recruitment of such workers for the first time in five years, the officials said. In addition, the company has taken on almost no seasonal workers for three-to-six-month contracts since late last year, the officials said.

With automobile demand unlikely to recover in the first half of this year, Toyota is prepared to ride out the slump with the existing work force, the officials said. They also cited the deteriorating outlook for employment in Japan as deterring young employees from quitting, thus making it easier for the company to keep up the strength of its labor force.

Toyota hired hundreds of mainly high school graduates annually in the "off-season" period in recent years when the Japanese automobile industry boosted output to meet buoyant sales.

College and high school students graduate in March, and they are usually recruited by companies as full-time employees in autumn of the previous year and begin working in April.

Scholars Urge Easing Rice Output Adjustment

OW0303120093 Tokyo KYODO in English 1113 GMT 3 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 3 KYODO—A group of economists on Wednesday [3 March] called on the government to replace a rice-import ban with tariffs and ease gradually its policy for reducing rice production that has been in effect since 1971.

The forum, headed by Aoyama Gakuin University Professor Yujiro Hayami, predicted Japan's annual rice imports will not exceed the minimum access volume of 50,000 tons if the government eases its rice-production controls by allowing farmers to plant 200,000 additional hectares in 1999.

The group said the opening of the rice market will cost the government up to 450 billion yen every year, with an average of 300 billion yen, including compensation for farmers, but the benefit to consumers would be worth much more than the outlay.

Reports from Washington quoted U.S. Trade Representative Mickey Kantor as saying the U.S. Administration will give top priority to opening the Japanese rice market. The forum appealed to the government to abandon its policy of keeping rice prices high by controling production.

Takeshita Promises Technology Exchange With ROK

OW0303132293 Tokyo KYODO in English 1301 GMT 3 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 3 KYODO—Former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita renewed Japan's promise for the transfer of industrial technology to South Korea in a meeting Wednesday [3 March] with Kim Chae-sun, the new chairman of the South Korea-Japan Parliamentarians Union.

Takeshita, who heads the counterpart Japan-South Korean lawmakers league, told Kim, "the budget for the transfer of technology has been included in the budget for fiscal 1994 and now diligence is necessary."

Kim, former speaker of South Korea's unicameral National Assembly, is in Japan until Saturday to meet with Japanese leaders and is scheduled to confer with Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa on Thursday morning.

Takeshita, at the center of an influence-peddling scandal that has undermined public confidence in the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), cautioned Kim that the ruling party should avoid being complacent in its politics.

"The LDP has never experienced being an opposition party and over a number of years as ruling party, it has lost its strictness," Takeshita told Kim, a ranking member of South Korea's three-year-old ruling Democratic Liberal Party. Takeshita also said he hopes to be able to encourage President Kim Yong-sam, who indicated in his February 25 inaugural address that one of his priorities will be to overcome the political corruption and social malaise he termed the "Korean disease."

Next-Generation Telecom System Targetted

OW0403132393 Tokyo KYODO in English 1228 GMT 4 Mar 93

[Text] Tokyo, March 4 KYODO—The Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications said Thursday it will formulate within about a year a plan to establish a next-generation telecommunications system. As a first step, next week the ministry will discuss such a system with the Telecommunications Council, an advisory panel, ministry officials said.

A basic telecom facilities improvement plan has recently loomed large as a good public works project to be carried out under the government's pump-priming package.

Two proposals have surfaced within the ministry in relation to a next-generation telecommunications system, the officials said. One calls for the government to establish such a system using funds accruing from the flotation of construction bonds, and the other provides for a newly created public corporation to establish the system using government loans, from institutions such as Japan development bank.

The broad-band integrated services digital network (B-ISDN), a 150-megabit to 600-megabit digital telecom network, promises to be the core of the next-generation system. In this system, the current lines linking telephone offices with subscribers—copper cables—will be replaced by optical fiber cables, and digital exchanges—asynchronous transfer mode (atm) exchanges—will be used.

B-ISDN will be capable of transmitting enormous quantities of images, data and sound very quickly over the same channel.

The ministry has so far mainly entrusted private telecom companies such as Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corp. (NTT) with the task of establishing basic telecom facilities. However, the ministry believes that public funds will have to be spent on the establishment of a B-ISDN system, which is estimated to cost 33 trillion yen.

In addition to such a long-term project, the ministry will study the possible short-term expansion of basic telecom facilities as an immediate pump-priming project, Tetsuo Morimoto, vice minister for posts and telecommunications, told reporters on Thursday. Such a project will be undertaken with a supplementary budget after Diet approval of the fiscal 1993 government budget, he said.

North Korea

ROK-U.S. Team Spirit Exercise Reported

U.S. Troop Withdrawal Urged

SK0403013393 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0021 GMT 4 Mar 93

[NODONG SINMUN 4 March special article: "Withdrawal of U.S. Troops Is Basic Issue for Removing the Danger of Nuclear War on the Korean Peninsula"]

[Text] The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has taught: Only when various types of nuclear weapons and the U.S. troops are withdrawn from South Korea, can the root of evil of nuclear war be eliminated from the Korean peninsula and can durable peace be maintained. By doing so, not only can our people and the people in our neighboring countries, but also the world's people live peacefully.

The denuclearization of the Korean peninsula has now been raised as a very urgent question because the Korean peninsula has become the most dangerous place for a nuclear war in the world.

In particular, since the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean warmongers resumed the Team Spirit-93 joint military exercise, the danger for a nuclear war on the Korean peninsula has been further deepened.

With resumption of this joint military exercise, various types of nuclear weapons, nuclear means, ultramodern military equipment and enormous armed forces are moving to South Korea on a large scale from U.S. bases in Japan and in the Asia-Pacific area, as well as from the U.S. mainland. Exercises for real war are being staged in many places.

Already in late January, scores of pursuit plans made sorties in formation from the "Independence," an extra-large nuclear aircraft carrier which will participate in this war exercise, and embarked on a nuclear attack exercise simulating attack on targets in coastal areas in the northern half of the Republic.

Several hundreds of nuclear-loaded fighter bombers, perpendicular take off-landing aircraft and pursuit planes set out every day from the bases on the U.S. mainland and in the Pacific area including Japan. They participated in the northward attack exercises together with the puppet air force planes.

This being the very status of early-stage deployment of troops and operational equipment, it is as clear as fire to what stage the danger of the Team Spirit-93 joint military exercise will reach when it is conducted on a full scale.

The enormous troops and operational equipment that are capable of carrying out a complete war will be mobilized in the Team Spirit joint military exercise. It is a widely known fact that this exercise is a provocative northward offensive and aggressive exercise aimed at launching a preemptive nuclear attack on the northern half of our Republic. It is a reckless test nuclear war.

Undoubtedly, mankind, not to mention our people, will suffer fearful nuclear calamities when this exercise leads to war.

Denuclearizing the Korean peninsula and checking the nuclear war exercise in South Korea are pressing issues which should be solved without fail for peace and security in Korea, Asia and the world.

The essential question, urgently raised for denuclearizing the Korean peninsula and for removing the danger of a nuclear war, is to make the U.S. troops and nuclear weapons withdraw from South Korea.

The nuclear question on the Korean peninsula was generated by illegal occupation of South Korea by the U.S. imperialists and by their dragging numerous nuclear weapons into South Korea.

The U.S. imperialists brought enormous nuclear weapons each year into South Korea for 35 years from January 1958 to date. Today more than 1,000 nuclear weapons—reaching as much as 55 percent of U.S. nuclear weapons deployed in the Pacific area—have been deployed in South Korea.

Today in South Korea, there are almost all kinds of nuclear weapons, ranging from the first generation nuclear weapon to neutron bombs, the third generation nuclear weapon.

According to a report of the Central Committee of the South Korean National Democratic Front, nuclear weapons in South Korea reach to such an enormous quantity as to make each one of the South Korean people shoulder five tons of nuclear bombs.

Some time ago, the United States and the South Korean authorities announced the withdrawal of tactical nuclear weapons, nonexistence of nuclear weapons and so forth, as if nuclear weapons deployed in South Korea were withdrawn. However, their announcement failed to gain anyone's trust.

As was exposed by those who were involved in the construction of underground nuclear weapon storage centers and by managers of nuclear bases, the U.S. nuclear weapons have not been withdrawn from South Korea but are being hidden in underground nuclear weapon storage centers. Even at this moment, nuclear ships loaded with nuclear weapons are visiting and leaving Chinhae port one after another.

The question of denuclearization of the Korean peninsula is, in essence, the issue of removing nuclear weapons and nuclear bases that the U.S. troops brought in and built in South Korea.

In order that nuclear weapons and nuclear bases are withdrawn from and abolished in South Korea, we should force the U.S. troops—the ringleader who is threatening our people with nuclear weapons and leading the situation to the brink of war—to withdraw.

To make the Korean peninsula a nuclear-free zone and remove the danger of nuclear war, it is also demanded that the United States amend its aggressive Cold War policy toward Korea, as well as abandon its policy of using nuclear cudgels [haengmongdungi chongchaek].

Attaching great importance to Asia in realizing its aggressive ambition to dominate the world, the United States deployed its forces of aggression in South Korea, the only U.S. colony in Asia, and turned it into an advanced nuclear base.

The United States has withdrawn a part of its forces and nuclear weapons from Europe and other areas of the world, but it never thinks of taking such action in South Korea. Instead, it suspended the token plan of withdrawing U.S. occupation forces from South Korea under unjust pretexts. In addition, it signed the Wartime Host Nations Support Agreement with the South Korean authorities and decided that it would deploy even more armed forces of the U.S. Navy and Air Force, if necessary.

Also, the United States and the South Korean authorities resumed the Team Spirit joint military exercise this year after suspending it last year.

The United States' current commotions with nuclear suspicions of the North's nuclear development and the like is aimed at preparing a pretext to put its strategy of aggression into practice.

In conclusion, to denuclearize the Korean peninsula and remove the threat of nuclear war, it is necessary to have the United States fundamentally redress its aggressive policy toward Korea.

Taking advantage of its military occupation of South Korea, the United States is pertinaciously adhering to aggression and war maneuvers. If the United States had not occupied South Korea, it could neither have changed South Korea to an advanced nuclear base nor played the nuclear war fire game on the nuclear base.

The issue of deterring South Korea's nuclear development, which has reached a dangerous phase, can be resolved only by withdrawing the U.S. forces occupying South Korea, which are actively supporting and safeguarding nuclear development.

When the U.S. troops and nuclear weapons withdraw from South Korea, and when the nuclear armament maneuver by South Korea itself is deterred, the danger of nuclear war will be removed from the Korean peninsula and the road to peaceful reunification of the country based on national reconciliation and unity will be wide open.

The United States has no reason to deploy its forces of aggression and its nuclear weapons in South Korea today. It deployed its forces in South Korea under the pretext of preventing the former Soviet Union from invading the South in the past. However, the pretext can no longer be justified.

In particular, because of the adoption and effectuation of the historic agreement between the North and the South and the joint declaration on denuclearization, the pretext of southward invasion, which has been used by the United States for its occupation of South Korea, makes no sense any longer.

The United States' attempt to keep its forces of aggression and its nuclear weapons stationed in South Korea is anachronistic and deserves denunciation by our people and the peace-loving people of the world.

The United States must stop the criminal Team Spirit joint military exercise and take steps to withdraw its troops and nuclear weapons from South Korea.

KCNA: U.S. To Mobilize B-1B

SK0403102593 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1003 GMT 4 Mar 93

[Text] Pyongyang, March 4 (KCNA)—The U.S. imperialists decided to newly mobilize "B-1B" bombers designed for strategic nuclear attack in the "Team Spirit 93" joint military exercises which will enter into a full-dress stage on March 9, the Japanese paper MAINICHI SHIMBUN reported Wednesday.

They had flown "B-52" strategic nuclear bombers in the last "Team Spirit" war gambles. "B-1B" is said to be a strategic nuclear attack plane of newer type.

This fact shows that the U.S. imperialists are becoming more open in their provocative nuclear war moves against the northern half of Korea and brings into bolder relief the criminal nature of the "Team Spirit" as a nuclear war game.

KCNA: F-16's Flown in From Japan

SK0403102893 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1006 GMT 4 Mar 93

[Text] Pyongyang, March 4 (KCNA)—The U.S. imperialist aggressors on March 2 brought formations of nuclear-capable F-16s to U.S. air bases in South Korea from the Misawa base in Japan for an air war exercise staged within the framework of the criminal "Team Spirit 93" war gamble, according to military sources.

The fighter-bombers were flown above Oeyon Islet, Pyongtaek and Tanyang that day in a war exercise aimed at bombing on the depths of the northern half of Korea with flying corps belonging to the U.S. Air Force present in South Korea and the puppet airforce.

On the same day, formations of Japan- and Pacific-based pursuit-assault planes and VTOL assault planes staged an exercise of striking targets in the inland area of the North in coordination with fighter-bombers, assault planes and observation planes of the U.S. Seventh Airforce and the puppet airforce in the skies above Yongwol, Umsong and Kongju.

Pyongyang Asks Beijing To Write Off Debt

OW0403085393 Tokyo KYODO in English 0831 GMT 4 Mar 93

[Text] Hong Kong, March 4 KYODO—North Korea has asked China to write off a 25 billion yuan debt following a payment suspension in 1991, a Chinese-language monthly magazine reported Thursday.

The request was made in a letter to the Chinese Foreign Ministry in early December 1992, THE MIRROR [CHING PAO] said, quoting "informed sources."

The magazine said the Foreign Ministry turned down the North Korean request in its letter, saying the external debt must be paid as scheduled under a bilateral diplomatic agreement.

The letter, however, noted that China is ready to resolve the debt issue with North Korea through consultations to avoid enforcing payment and to discuss new assistance plans for North Korea, according to the sources.

A high-ranking North Korean official had reportedly urged Beijing to conclude an aid accord during a meeting with his Chinese counterparts in late December.

Cameroonian Delegation Leaves Pyongyang 2 Mar

SK0403024393 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1300 GMT 2 Mar 93

[Text] The Cameroonian Government delegation led by Francis Nkwain, delegate minister of the external relations minister, returned home by plane on 2 March. Kang Sok-chu, first vice foreign minister, and functionaries concerned saw the delegation off at the airport.

KCNA Highlights Construction Project Progress

SK0403092793 Pyongyang KCNA in English GMT Mar 93

[Text] Pyongyang, March 3 (KCNA)—"I think we should rather use the term 'space construction speed' than 'world's construction speed' as regards the miracles created in construction in Korea. It is dear his excellency Kim Chong-il who has created such a speed."

So said Prof. and Dr. Victor Pickl, ex-director of the public procurator's office under the parliament of Austria and chairman of the Austrian committee for the study of the chuche idea, who visited Korea some time ago.

Construction in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is progressing at a rapid speed on a gigantic scale each year.

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il has said:

"It is an urgent demand of the developing revolution to wage a powerful speed campaign on all fronts of socialist construction."

Stressing that construction must always be one for the people, he gave answers to all questions arising in construction such as the content and scale, quality and speed of construction, wisely leading the builders to undertake construction in a bold and audacious manner.

The 1970s witnessed the appearance of a host of monumental edifices in Pyongyang and local areas, such as the Korean revolutionary museum with a floor space of 53,000 sq metres, the Pyongyang indoor stadium with a floor space of 67,000 sq metres, the Mansudae art theatre with a floor space of 60,000 sq metres, the February 8 house of culture with a floor space of 80,000 sq metres, the international friendship exhibition with a floor space of 28,000 sq metres, the Mansudae grand monument, the Samjiyon grand monument, the Wangjaesan grand monument and the first, second and third stages of the Pyongyang metro.

The Chollima street (first stage) and rakwon street were built in Pyongyang in six months and houses for 890,000 families were built in cities and rural communities across the country including Anju and Namchongjin districts in five years (1971-1975).

In the construction of industrial establishments more than 6,000 projects were completed in less than two years (1978-1979).

In the 1980s Korea built 300 or more monumental edifices including the arch of triumph, the ice-rink, the Pyongyang circus theatre, the Mangyongdae school children's palace, the Pyongyang maternity hospital and gymnasiums in Chongchun street in Pyongyang alone.

The Tower of Chuche Idea, a 170-metre high stone tower, was completed in less than two years, the people's grand study house with a floor space of 100,000 sq metres in one year and nine months, the may day stadium with a floor space of 207,000 sq metres in two years and a half and the Changgwang street in 10 months, striking the world people with admiration.

The builders completed the Kwangbok and Chongchun streets each resembling one city in two years or more.

The total floor space of the dwelling houses and public facilities built in Pyongyang in the 80s is 2.3 times those built in the 70s in total floor space.

Some 2,500 projects were completed annually in the first half of the 1980s in industrial construction.

The builders of the northern railway built a track of more than 250 km, 116 railway bridges, 76 tunnels and 42 stations in five years or more.

The builders of the West Sea Barrage stretching eight km across a wild sea carried out in five years the gigantic project which would have taken scores of years or one whole generation according to the established theory and experience.

In the first two years of the 1990s, the builders completed the Tongil street (first stage) resembling one whole city in the Southern area of Pyongyang, the Pyongyang-Kaesong expressway, the second-stage Pyongyang tramway project, the three revolution exhibition (110 hectares in plottage and 80,000 sq metres in total floor space) and a new building of Kim Chaek University of technology 100,000 sq metres in total floor space.

KCNA Reviews 4 March Pyongyang Press

SK0403092193 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0758 GMT 4 Mar 93

[Press review]

[Text] Pyongyang, March 4 (KCNA)—Papers here today devote two whole pages to "Abuses of Socialism Are Intolerable," a talk of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, which was published in KULLOJA, organ of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, on March 1, 1993.

Appearing in the press is a message of condolence sent by President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and chairman of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia, upon his aunt's death.

NODONG SINMUN quotes Lucien Materne, Politburo member of the C.C., the Belgian Labor Party, who visited Korea some time ago as saying that Comrade Kim Chong-il is a great leader who is leading the socialist cause to victory.

The paper conveys words of South Korean people ardently longing for the Northern half of the country as a harmonious big family where the trinity of the leader, the party and the masses has been realized.

Econews of the press include reports about the fulfilment of the February assignments in various units of the national economy including the ministries of coal, metal and mining industries and the general bureau of textile industry.

Under the title "For the Party and the Leader, For Society and the Collective!" NODONG SINMUN introduces noble communist deeds shown by working people and people's army soldiers.

The daily carries a joint statement which was published between the Workers' Party of Korea and the Slovak Communist Party in Pyongyang.

The paper reports that Korean sportmen were successful at the international free style wrestling tournament "Mongolian Gobi-93" and at the second ice hockey tournament for Asia Cup.

Papers convey foreign public voices branding the "Team Spirit 93" joint military exercises as a grave challenge to the Korean people and the world people.

NODONG SINMUN reports about the anti-American sentiments mounting in South Korea.

"U.S. Troop Pullout Is Fundamental Question in Removing Danger of Nuclear War on Korean Peninsula" is the title of an article of the paper.

Statements demanding a stop to the "special inspection" campaign against the DPRK have been published in different countries, report papers. They convey the foreign press tone hitting out at it.

NODONG SINMUN introduces achievements made by the Cuban working people in socialist economic construction.

The Philippine president elaborated on the problem of the country's development, says the paper.

An article of the paper deals with the plunder of grain by Japanese imperialism during its occupation of Korea.

South Korea

North Reportedly Sends Tanks, Anti-Air Guns to Yongbyon

SK0403030493 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 4 Mar 93 p 2

[Text] It was confirmed that North Korea placed tanks and anti-air guns in an area around two buildings in the Yongbyon area which are nuclear facilities that the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] is calling for special inspection. It was learned on 3 March that the ROK and the United States have started analysis in order to verify this matter.

The IAEA provided North Korea with a grace period on the IAEA's special inspection of its nuclear facilities. Its grace period expires on 25 March. Therefore, dispatching tanks and anti-air guns to the Yongbyon area by North Korea is drawing much interest because it was carried out during the grace period.

On 3 March, a high-ranking government source said: "It was confirmed that in early February, North Korea dispatched less than 10 tanks and anti-air guns to an area around two buildings. North Korea has been rejecting the IAEA's special inspection on these facilities by saying that these are military bases. In this regard, the government is analyzing North Korea's intention assiduously."

This source continued: "When the fourth ad hoc [imsi] inspection by the IAEA was conducted in early November 1992, North Korea showed the building in question and allowed military trucks to come and go to prove that these were military bases."

This source analyzed: "North Korea will either continue to reject the IAEA's special inspection by saying that the facilities in question are military bases, or it may allow special inspection to justify its claim under the condition that military facilities in other areas are prohibited from inspection.

PRC Spokesman Cited on Nuclear Issue, Missiles

SK0403101393 Seoul YONHAP in English 0956 GMT 4 Mar 93

[Text] Beijing, March 4 (YONHAP)—China expressed the hope on Thursday that North Korea's nuclear issue will be resolved smoothly through talks among the parties involved.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Li Jianying made the remarks at a press conference here in response to a question about China's posture toward the issue of conducting special inspections of North Korean nuclear facilities by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

Spokesman Li rejected as "totally unfounded" some foreign press reports that in the wake of Beijing-Seoul diplomatic normalization last year, North Korea conveyed to Beijing its intent of discarding the North Korea-China friendship and cooperation treaty and recalling its ambassador from Beijing.

Asked about the reported cancellation of Kim Chong-il's planned visit to China in a dispute over his itineraries, li said, "Basically I have heard nothing about Secretary Kim Chong-il's visit to China."

He added, "China and North Korea have since long ago maintained friendly cooperative realtions and will develop such relations in the future based on the principles of peace and coexistence."

On the reports that China would soon introduce 100 to 300 missiles from Russia, Spokesman Li said the reports were inaccurate and exaggerated.

"The latest foreign press reports that China is promoting arms buildup seem designed to undermine the development of good neighborly relations between China and its neighboring countries," he said.

Saying that China's defense outlays are extremely small, the Foreign Ministry spokesman said the basis of China's external policies is to maintain world peace and develop good neighborly ties with countries in its adjacent areas.

North Reportedly Sends Protest Letter to PRC

SK0403031993 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 0200 GMT 4 Mar 93

[Report by Tokyo-based correspondent Yuk In]

[Text] Japan's YOMIUIRI SHIMBUN reported from Hong Kong that North Korea sent a letter of protest to China after the establishment of ROK-China diplomatic relations last year. The letter revealed North Korea's intention to abolish the China-North Korea treaty on friendship and cooperation and to summon the North Korean ambassador to China.

Quoting an article of a monthly magazine published in Hong Kong, YOMIURI SHIMBUN said that following the delivery of the protest letter, North Korea last December requested China cancel debts amounting to $25 billion which North Korea had failed to pay to China.

YOMIURI SHIMBUN also reported that North Korea's Kim Il-song sent letters to China last year on three occasions, asking it to offer military facilities, energy, machines, and agricultural assistance, and to conclude a new political, economic and military treaty. However, Deng Xiaoping, the highest real holder of power in China, responded only with limited economic assistance and refused all other requests.

Garden Controversy Ousts Seoul Mayor

Illegal Greenbelt Conversion

SK0403021193 Seoul YONHAP in English 0118 GMT 4 Mar 93

[Text] Seoul, March 4 (YONHAP)—Seoul Mayor Kim Sang-chol will be fired for illegally building a garden in a greenbelt zone, presidential aides said Thursday. President Kim Yong-sam will soon announce his replacement, they said. Kim will not dismiss Justice Minister Pak Hui-tae, whose daughter gave up her Korean citizenship to enter a South Korean university by the side door, the aides said. He will instead make Pak's daughter leave Ewha Womans University and renounce her U.S. citizenship, they said.

The mayor came under fire after just five days in office for buying nearly 1,800 square meters of farmland in a greenbelt and converting it into a garden. Pak's daughter is accused of abusing her foreign citizenship to bypass the cut-throat college entrance exam.

Resignation Accepted

SK0403040793 Seoul YONHAP in English 0306 GMT 4 Mar 93

[Text] Seoul, March 4 (YONHAP)—President Kim Yong-sam accepted Seoul Mayor Kim Sang-chol's resignation Thursday morning, a Chongwadae [presidential offices] spokesman said.

Justice Minister Pak Hui-tae told the president he would have his daughter leave university and attain Korean citizenship, Yi Kyong- chae said.

The mayor came to the president with his resignation letter and apologized for damaging the credibility of the president's pledge for change and reform, Yi said. Kim was discovered to have illegally converted farmland in a greenbelt zone to a nearly 1,800-sq.-meter garden.

The justice minister's daughter, born in the United States, kept her U.S. citizenship and renounced her Korean citizenship to enter Ewha Womans University as a foreigner, bypassing the highly competitive college entrance exam. Asked whether action against Pak would stop at this correctional measure, the spokesman said, "for now, yes." Both Kim and Pak were appointed Feb. 26. The president is soon to announce a new Seoul mayor.

Dissident Labor Group Meets Kim Aides

SK0403022993 Seoul YONHAP in English 0108 GMT 4 Mar 93

[Text] Seoul, March 4 (YONHAP)—A leading dissident labor group met with presidential aides for the first time Wednesday, and they exchanged views on labor problems.

Three representatives of Chonnohyop (the National Council of Labor Unions), a rival to the Federation of Korean Trade Unions (FKTU), were allowed to enter the previously forbidden grounds of Chongwadae [presidential offices] and deliver a petition on stabilizing employment to President Kim Yong-sam.

Kim Chong-nam, senior presidential secretary for social and cultural affairs, listened to their request for employment security in the wake of massive layoffs caused by the recession and adjustment of the industrial structure.

Chonnohyop leaders called for the president to quickly introduce his promised employment insurance system and Kim, himself a student activist and dissident for 30 years, promised that he would make efforts to solve problems troubling labor and management and to lessen the threat of unemployment.

Saying he would deliver their petition to the president, Kim told the union leaders that Chongwadae was open to everyone and advised them to seek a solution to their problems through dialogue instead of street demonstrations.

The first visit to the presidential office by labor activists was possible because of an agreement among Chongwadae, the police and the union.

Chonnohyop canceled a street march to Chongwadae after the presidential office agreed to talks.

"When the presidential office welcomed our visit, we realized the new government's determination for reform," union spokesman Yi Yong- pom said, adding his hope for the continuance of talks over demonstrations.

Kim Yong-sam To Refuse Political Contributions

SK0403092993 Seoul YONHAP in English 0650 GMT 4 Mar 93

[Text] Seoul, March 4 (YONHAP)—President Kim Yong-sam vowed Thursday that he would not receive any political contributions—not a penny—from anybody, even business corporations, during his five-year tenure.

In his first meeting with reporters as president, Kim said he planned to tear down 12 houses owned by the presidential office of Chongwadae and build a 10,500-pyong (one pyong is 3.3 square meters) public park in their place. The houses, called Anga (safe house), have been used as the venue for secret meetings of powers-that-be.

In addition, Kim said his administration would substantially revise the laws governing political fundraising, political parties and elections in order to wipe out corruption and realize politics that do not need money.

Kim said he hadn't received a penny from anyone since he won the presidential election on Dec. 18. "In the coming five years, I shan't receive any money, not only from businessmen but ordinary citizens," Kim said. "That includes free cake and even a free cup of tea.

"Who, among the past presidents of this country, didn't receive any money?" Kim asked. "My resolution not to receive anything in the next five years will be a great change in our political world, a revolution."

As for the 12 houses owned by the presidential office, Kim said that they were the favorite structures of leaders of successive military governments on down from president Pak Chong-hui.

"It was in those unfortunate places where secret political schemes were hatched," Kim said. The houses would be completely demolished to make way for a public park for citizens to rest in, Kim said. The president also said the greenbelt zones designated by the government as nature reserves should not be damaged under any circumstances. Any part of the greenbelt damaged through illegal development should be immediately restored to its original form, Kim said.

Kim's Government To Create New Economic Plan

SK0403072193 Seoul YONHAP in English 0219 GMT 4 Mar 93

[Text] Seoul, March 4 (YONHAP)—South Korea's new government will draw up a new mid-term economic plan and launch it in the second half of the year on President Kim Yong-sam's instructions, an informed source at the Economic Planning Board said Thursday. The new plan is likely to contain economic reforms for the next five years, unlike the 1992-1997 economic development plan that it will replace, the source said.

The current plan was causing confusion and hampering mid-term economic management, he said. jernment would draw up a new plan to cover the period to February 1998, when Kim steps down.

The new plan will call for maintaining economic growth at 7 percent to 8 percent, boosting per capita income to 15,000 U.S. dollars, and holding commodity price hikes to 3 percent as Kim pledged in his election campaign last year. It will probably include an improvement in the trade balance, maybe even a surplus, interest rates in single digits, financial and banking reforms, mandatory use of real names in transactions, tax reforms, more investment in science and technology, and making 90-percent of homes owner-occupied. The plan is expected to contain measures to reduce concentration of economic strength on conglomerates, the source explained.

The current plan aims at an average annual growth rate of 7.5 percent in real terms and lifting per capita income to 10,440 dollars by 1996.

Some officials argue that five-year plans, which have driven the country for over 30 years, face extinction. A new practice of drawing up economic management measures in consideration of the presidential term is expected to be introduced along with the new scheme, they say.

"The new five-year economic plan will be worked out in such a way as to overcome economic difficulties and lay a foundation for economic growth by revising the seventh economic development plan," the source said.

Kim Stresses Importance of Japanese Ties

SK0403064193 Seoul YONHAP in English 0531 GMT 4 Mar 93

[Text] Seoul, March 4 (YONHAP)—President Kim Yong-sam has sent a personal letter to Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa emphasizing the importance of Korea-Japan relations and assuring him of mutual efforts to develop these relations, the presidential office of Chongwadae [presidential offices] said Thursday. The letter was delivered by Rep. Kim Chae-son, Seoul-side chairman of the Korea-Japan parliamentary union, during a visit to Tokyo.

In the message, Kim expressed his thanks for Miyazawa's congratulations on his inauguration and hoped the two leaders could meet at an early date to exchange views on matters of common interest.

Agricultural, Fishery Proposal to North Readied

SK0403120893 Seoul HANGYORE SINMUN in Korean 3 Mar 93 p 1

[Text] The government has decided to sign an agreement with North Korea to cultivate agricultural and fishery products for South Korean consumption..

According to authorities concerned, the stalemate in relations between the North and South has been prolonged due to the nuclear inspection issue. The government will propose a contract for North Korea to cultivate agricultural and fishery products under the policy of easing the protracted stalemate in North-South relations by expanding economic exchanges.

Because of South Korea's increasing demand for agricultural and fishery products and because North Korea can raise and supply them to South Korea, the government plans to sign a contract with North Korea to cultivate them.

A high-ranking government official said: After signing contracts with relevant North Korean organizations—which include enterprises and agricultural and fishery associations—concerning the quantity, amount of money, and delivery time and terms, either enterprises or consumers' organizations in South Korea will take the products from North Korea after a specified period. The relevant ministries are expected to discuss this issue sooner or later.

He said: It is the government's opinion that the protracted stalemate in North-South relations over the nuclear inspection issue will never be beneficial to the advance of relations. It is, however, practically impossible not to take notice of the nuclear inspection issue. Therefore, the relevant ministers agree to break the stalemate in relations between the North and South by expanding trade exchanges.

He predicted: Because the exchanges of goods—except for practical investment—have been currently carried out between the North and South, it is expected that there will be no difficulties in making contracts with North Korea.

He added: When North Korean agricultural and fishery products are delivered to South Korea under this contract, the products will be greatly helpful to stabilizing the prices of domestic agricultural and fishery products and enhancing their quality. The government will decide the quantity, price, and delivery time in order not to damage the South Korean agricultural and fishery business.

The agricultural products the government will propose North Korea cultivate are potatoes, corn, raw materials for oriental medicines, and herbs.

Vietnam Travel Restrictions To Lift 8 Mar

SK0403093193 Seoul YONHAP in English 0710 GMT 4 Mar 93

[Text] Seoul, March 4 (YONHAP)—Korea will lift all travel restrictions for Vietnam on March 8, the Foreign Ministry announced Thursday. Vietnam is in a special category despite its official relations with Korea because it is a communist country. Until Monday, Koreans traveling to Vietnam require approval from the Agency for National Security Planning and the Foreign Ministry. Seoul and Hanoi set up bilateral diplomatic ties on Dec. 22.

Companies Receive Invitations to Pyongyang

SK0403093093 Seoul YONHAP in English 0847 GMT 4 Mar 93

[Text] Seoul, March 4 (YONHAP)—Over 40 South Korean companies have received invitations from North Korea and most of them are ready to send their executives to Pyongyang as soon as the government gives them the green light, business sources said Thursday.

Visits are currently banned because the government links economic exchange between South and North Korea with the North Korean nuclear issue. But businessmen anticipate that the linkage will soon be dropped because of a inauguration of the new government, they said.

"According to my information, 46 firms have invitations from Pyongyang," a company executive told YONHAP on Thursday. This was partly confirmed by a National Unification Board official, who said, "more than 30 companies have reported accepting invitations."

Among those business groups invited are Samsung, Daewoo, Lucky- Goldstar, Lotte, Kolon, Hyosung, Doosan, Hanil, Miwon and Kohap. Some government-invested organizations such as the Korea Trade Promotion Corp. also got invitations, the sources said.

Most of the invitations were signed by Choe Chong-kun, president of the Koryo National Industrial Development Association, and issued between May and October 1992, they said.

Samsung, Daewoo and Lucky-Goldstar, however, have invitations in the name of Kim Tal-hyon, chairman of state planning commission.

Group To Visit Moscow To Discuss Downed Aircraft

SK0303121593 Seoul YONHAP in English 1026 GMT 3 Mar 93

[Text] Seoul, March 3 (YONHAP)—Government and family representatives from South Korea, Japan and the United States will go to Moscow next week to discuss compensation measures for victims of the downed Korean air passenger plane over Russia, Foreign Ministry officials said Wednesday. They are scheduled to meet with number of Russian officials during the meeting slated for March 10-11, possibly extended for one more day depending on the progress of the talks, the officials said.

A Soviet fighter jet shot down the South Korean airliner off Sakhalin, killing all 269 people aboard. Moscow officials insisted the plane knowingly invaded Russian airspace on an espionage mission. The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) reopened its investigation into the incident after Russia handed over the black box tapes in January, and the French flight test center completed its analysis of the tapes. ICAO is expected to announce the investigation results sometime next month.

The delegation from the three countries are to ask Moscow to build a memorial tower in Sakhalin for the victims, allow regular memorial services and provide other compensation measures. The officials and victims families hope to meet personally with those who were involved in the salvage mission of the aircraft, the pilot of the Soviet jet fighter and head of the Russian investigation team. Ham Myong-chol, deputy director-general of ministry's treaties bureau, will head the South Korean government delegation.

Hebei Economic Delegation Arrives in Seoul

SK0303121893 Seoul YONHAP in English 1122 GMT 3 Mar 93

[Text] Seoul, March 3 (YONHAP)—A large economic delegation from the Hebei Province of China arrived in Seoul on Wednesday. The 394-member mission was headed by Hebei Vice Governor Ye Liansong. The delegation will stage a 93 Hebei Commodity Fair and furnish counsels on joint-venture investment in Hebei at the Korea exhibition center in Southern Seoul for a week beginning March 8.

Delegation members will also have opportunities to confer with economic government officials and leaders of major economic organizations, and observe key industrial facilities. A spokesman for the Hebei mission said his team is interested in buying 47 items including machinery and motor bikes worth about 100 million dollars in all. "We also plan to have active negotiations with Korean industries for joint-venture investment in our Province," the spokesman said.

ROK To Merge Sports, Culture; Energy, Trade Ministries

SK0403094093 Seoul YONHAP in English 0754 GMT 4 Mar 93

[Text] Seoul, March 4 (YONHAP)—The cabinet on Thursday passed a bill merging the Sports and Youth Ministry with the Culture Ministry, and the Energy and Resources Ministry with the Trade and Industry Ministry. It was agreed to name the new organizations the Culture and Sports Ministry and the Trade, Industry and Resources Ministry.

The cabinet decided to create assistant ministers for sports, energy, and resources, and retain the offices of youth and sports affairs.

The sports department in the Culture and Sports Ministry will merely assume a supportive role, leaving the leading role in making sports policies to such affiliated organizations as the Korea Amateur Sports Associationume (KASA), sources said.

YONHAP Profiles New Vice Foreign Minister

SK0403071993 Seoul YONHAP in English 0226 GMT 4 Mar 93

[Text] Seoul, March 4 (YONHAP)—New Vice Foreign Minister Hong Sun-yong is a self-acclaimed reformist who is especially popular with younger-generation ministry officials. He contributed to South Korea's nordpolitik as assistant foreign minister for economic affairs in 1989 in preparing for diplomatic normalization with east European countries.

A native of Chechon, North Chungchong Province, 56-year-old Hong was graduated from Seoul National University one year before Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu.

The ambassador, a self-driven man, is fluent in English and abundant in ideas. He entered the Foreign Ministry in 1962 and served as director of the North American division, counselor to the U.N. mission, director-general of the African Affairs bureau and ambassador to Pakistan and Malaysia. His current post is ambassador to Russia.

Opposition Party Criticizes Kim for Compromising Reforms

SK0403021393 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 4 Mar 93 p 2

[Text] The opposition Democratic Party [DP] is stepping up its offensive against President Kim Yong-sam and the ruling camp, arguing that Kim's pledges for reform show signs of compromise amid reports of the unpopular actions of some figures in the establishment.

The DP is focusing on a series of reports questioning the moral integrity of new Justice Minister Pak Hui-tae and Seoul Mayor Kim Sang-chol, demanding their resignation.

As to Justice Minister Pak's case, DP deputy spokesman Yi Chun- hyong said, "It is a matter of morality as the nation's highest law enforcement official.

"Pak should be held responsible for his daughter's entrance into a university using the quota reserved for foreign students by taking advantage of her dual nationality. She was born in the United States and was given U.S. nationality. This has disappointed the people very much because he is the top law enforcement official in the government's bold move to push reforms based on impeccable morality," he said.

He called on President Kim to take due steps against Pak, citing the example of U.S. President Bill Clinton. He withdrew his nomination of attorney-general designate upon the revelation that she hired illegal aliens as her housemaids in the past.

Seoul Mayor Kim has been under a barrage of criticism for having built a large garden in violation of green-belt regulations.

"The party called for the introduction of a system of subjecting appointees for key government posts to Assembly hearings like in the United States to winnow out morally questionable people," he said.

The party heaped criticism on President Kim for making remarks that seemed to retreat from his earlier promise of bold reforms. Another party spokesman Pak U-sop said, "Kim betrayed the people's expectations when he said he would let bygones be bygones. It is proof that Kim's will for reform has been dissipated."

"The party solemnly warns President Kim of severe criticism from the people if he tries to protect the two high ranking government officials," he said.

He said the party would cooperate with President Kim if he tries sincerely to go ahead with reform policies to uproot corruption and establish law and order in society. "However, the party will resolutely confront the ruling camp along with the people if its demand is not met," he added.

The DP also criticized the Democratic Liberal Party executive chairman Kim Chong-pil for appearing to balk at the reformative move of the government.

DP spokesman Rep. Pak Chi-won said, "Kim is standing in the way of reform. Kim's statement represents the interest of those in the establishment who are opposed to any reform," he said.

The DLP executive chairman earlier said, "it is improper to seek only new things. We should not try to run before we can walk," apparently opposing President Kim's bold reform.

The Agency for National Security Planning [NSP] will turn its hand to collecting and analyzing foreign information under President Kim Yong-sam, a senior NSP official said yesterday.

"An initial briefing for the new director, Kim Tok, on our work has been completed since his appointment last week," he said. "He will start by adjusting the NSP's functions on the basis of his findings, and reorganize it later."

The NSP will drastically cut back on collecting domestic information, the source of much of its negative image, and beef up its overseas activities, especially the gathering of industrial and commercial information, he said.

The new director said in his inaugural speech on Feb. 26: "In doing the reforms, we will not seek a prompt overhauling of the organization but are intent on a steady and gradual reorganization to avoid side-effects."

Kim will have completed his overhaul by the end of March because it thinks it undesirable to delay, the official said.

Prosecution Investigates 1987 Attack on Party Founding

SK0403092893 Seoul YONHAP in English 0638 GMT 4 Mar 93

[Text] Seoul, March 4 (YONHAP)—Investigation of attacks associated with the founding of an opposition political party in 1987 by the current president gained momentum Thursday with the issuance of summons for major suspects in the campaign of violence.

The prosecution is trying to shed light on attacks by hordes of bully boys during the founding of the Reunification Democratic Party by Kim Yong-sam and Kim Tae-chung.

A senior prosecutor hinted that the new investigation had dug up two or three important new names, saying this was a good sign that the truth would come out at last. Particular concern focuses on whether the Agency for National Security Planning (NSP) had a hand in the attacks, as was widely rumored at the time.

Prosecutors summoned Pak Yon-u, a disciplinary official of the now-defunct New Democratic Party's [NDP] Northeast chapter in Inchon at the relevant time in the 1980s, to ask him about the financial dealings of Yi Taek-ton.

Yi, an NDP lawmaker alleged to be involved in the attacks, was recently arrested on charges stemming from the campaign of violence. The prosecution has also summoned three men, including Kim Yong-nam, who led the attacks, in its probe of the purpose of the campaign.

In addition, the prosecution has put some 18 people on a list of people involved in the attacks, including former

Rep. Yi Taek-hui and Yi Song-wan, an alleged mastermind who is in the United States.

The prosecution is also making every endeavor to bring Yi Yong-ku, then deputy general affairs director of the NDP allegedly involved in the attacks, back home from the United States for questioning.

The investigation is expected to expand as independent Rep. Pak Chol-on, then-special adviser to the NSP director, or Yi Hae-ku, then-first deputy director of the NSP and now home minister, hold the keys to understanding the incident. The senior prosecutor, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the prosecution should investigate the two men by whatever form in the future.

Pak, talking to a newspaper recently, categorically denied his involvement but dropped hints that support the belief that the NSP was behind the political terrorism.

It is possible that then-opposition leader Yi Chol-sung was behind the attacks since Yi Son-chun, a former senior official of the New Democratic Party, has confessed that he had mobilized some 20 thugs after receiving some 300,000 won from Kim Yong-chun, Yi Chol-sung's secretary, he said.

Yi Yong-ku was a protege of Yi Chol-sung, raising the possibility that Yi Chol-sung might be implicated in the incident.

The prosecution expects to make progress in the investigation by focusing its energy on the flow of money provided to finance the raids. It has already confirmed Yi Taek-ton and Yi Taek-hui were given money by someone above them.

The prosecution is also expected to summon police officials who overlooked the raids in Seoul and Inchon.

ROK Records 1992 Trade Surplus With PRC

SK0303122093 Seoul YONHAP in English 1044 GMT 3 Mar 93

[Text] Beijing, March 3 (YONHAP)—South Korea registered a surplus of about 180 million dollars in its trade with China last year for the first time in several years, the official China daily here reported Wednesday. Quoting sources at China's general administration of customs, the daily said South Korea's direct exports to China amounted to 2,620 million dollars last year, more than twice as much as 1991, while China's exports to South Korea reached 2,440 million dollars, up 11.9 percent.

China's sluggish exports to Korea were attributable to a decline in domestic demand in South Korea, it said. The newspaper added that South Korea has emerged as China's seventh largest trading country.

Domestic Intelligence Expert Appointed NSP Deputy

SK0403093693 Seoul YONHAP in English 0905 GMT 4 Mar 93

[Text] Seoul, March 4 (YONHAP)—The government appointed Hwang Chang-pyong, first assistant director of National Security Planning [NSP], first deputy director of the intelligence agency, and named Kim Chong-won, special assistant on foreign and security affairs to the president of the Democratic Liberal Party, its second deputy director. Kim Ki-sop, special assistant on protocol to the DLP president, was named to head the NSP's planning and coordination office. Hwang, 53, a Korea University graduate, is Korea's foremost expert on domestic intelligence and could help acquaint NSP director Kim Tok with the agency's workings.

Kim Chong-won, 56, holder of doctorates from Harvard University and Johns Hopkins University in law and international politics, is an old acquaintance of President Kim Yong-sam and had worked as his special assistant on foreign and security affairs since 1987.

Kim Ki-sop, 54, a graduate of Seoul National University's political science department, worked for the Sams Business Group for a long time before he joined Kim.

CIA Industrial Data Collection Plan Examined

SK0303123593 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 3 Mar 93 p 7

[Article by reporter Pak Chong-se: "CIA's 'Industrial Intelligence' Creates Controversy"]

[Text] There are pros and cons over the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency's (CIA) possible participation in industrial intelligence activities with the launch of the Clinton administration.

The CIA has been called upon for the past couple of years to reduce the scope of its operations and alter its functions with the receding of the cold war. There is an increasing voice supporting this idea with the launch of the Clinton administration which gives top priority to the recovery of the national economy. The advocates of this idea assert that the CIA should involve itself deeply in industrial policy.

New CIA Director James Woolsey, speaking at a Congressional meeting early this month, said that the CIA's industrial intelligence activity "is becoming the hottest issue in its industrial policy," thus confirming that the CIA is actively reviewing this issue. At this meeting, he said that he will consider ways for the CIA and other information organizations to actively collect economic information and pass it on to U.S. businesses. After this remark had been made by Director Woolsey, the CIA revised its bylaws to help U.S. investigation organizations, including the FBI, conduct investigations of foreign businesses and individuals suspected of having violated U.S. domestic laws.

The CIA also has an external reason to take this step, as the step was taken following the report that the CIA had stopped the U.S. Justice Department from investigating foreign banks in the United States, thereby assisting Iraq in purchasing parts before the Gulf War.

The reason put forth by those who advocate CIA participation in industrial intelligence activities is that the key to national security in the post-cold war era is economic might. Therefore, they advocate that just as the intelligence organizations of other European countries provide their individual enterprises and civilian sectors with information they have collected, the CIA should also assist U.S. businesses now that the cold war structure has collapsed. Some even advocate that the CIA obtain sensitive economic information from foreign countries and provide it to U.S. businesses. They maintain that the CIA should at least prevent industrial spy activities that foreign governments and enterprises commit in the United States. They maintain that the CIA should analyze world economic and technology trends and give its analysis to policymakers to help them promote the competitiveness of U.S. businesses.

On the other hand, those who are opposed to CIA industrial intelligence activities warn that such activities could rapidly aggravate U.S. relations with its allies. They are worried that if the CIA conducts industrial intelligence activities against Japan and the advanced European countries—which must be the main target for such activities—when trade disputes are already a worldwide phenomenon, it could touch off further disputes. They note that even if the CIA participates in industrial intelligence activities, it will have difficulty in finding appropriate targets now that multinational corporations are engaged in global business.

They also question whether or not the CIA's industrial intelligence activities will bring a competitive edge to U.S. businesses. Washington experts well versed in this matter express a view that CIA participation in industrial intelligence activities could further incite foreign industrial intelligence activities and bring a greater threat to U.S. businesses.

However, despite the cons, in view of the policy of the Clinton administration, which is making an all-out effort for economic recovery, the CIA is expected to conduct more active information collection activities in the trade information sector although it is not certain whether it will participate in industrial intelligence activities. During the election campaign, Clinton promised to operate an economic security council (ESC) as well as operate the National Security Council (NSC). Although the name of this organization was changed to the National Economic Council (NEC) because of the hostile feeling it gave off, it is certain that the NEC will become an organization dealing with the foreign economic threat.

Therefore, it is more likely than ever that the CIA will attach greater importance to its role as an economic advance guard point than its traditional security-related information collection activities.

Government Appoints New Vice Ministers

SK0403005893 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 0000 GMT 4 Mar 93

[Text] Following are the names of the vice ministers:

Deputy Minister of the Economic Planning Board [EPB]: Kim Yong-tae, director of planning and management of the EPB;
Vice Minister of the Board of National Unification: Song Yong- tae, member of the advisory committee of South-North Dialogue Secretariat;
Vice Foreign Minister: Hong Sun-yong, ROK ambassador to Russia;
Vice Home Minister: Choe In-ki, current Vice Home Minister;
Vice Finance Minister: Paek Won-ku, director of the Office of Customs Administration;
Vice Minister of Justice: Sin Kon, prosecutor of the Kwangju high court of justice;
Vice Minister of Defense: Yi Su-hyu, vice minister of finance;
Vice Minister of Education: Yi Chon-su, director of planning and management of the Ministry of Education;
Vice Minister of Culture: Pak Tae-kwon, former lawmaker;
Vice Minister of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishery: Cho Kyu-il, first assistant minister of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishery;
Vice Minister of Trade and Industry: Yi Tong-hun, president of the ROK Export Insurance Corporation;
Vice Minister of Construction: Yi Kon-yong, chief secretary of the National Land Development Institute;
Vice Minister of Public Health: Choe Su-pyong, chairman of the Fair Trade Commission;
Vice Minister of Labor: Kim Hun-ki, governor of South Pyongan Province;
Vice Minister of Transportation: Ku Pon-yong, diplomatic minister of the ROK Embassy to the United States;
Vice Minister of Telecommunications and Posts: Kyong Sang-hyon, director of the Electronic Communications Institute;
Vice Minister of the Government Administration: Sim U- yong, director of planning and management of the Ministry of the Government Administration;
Vice Minister of Science and Technology: Han Yong-song, director of the National Central Science Center;
Vice Minister of the Office of Environment: Kim Hyong-chol, director of planning and management of the Office of Environment;
Vice Minister of Information: Yi Won-chong, deputy spokesman of the Democratic Liberal Party [DLP];
Vice Director of the Office of Legislation: Kim Se-sin, director of regulation of legislation of the Office of Legislation;

Vice Director of the Patriots and Veterans Affairs Agency: Yi Chung-kil, current Vice Director of the Patriots and Veterans Affairs Agency
Aide to the First State Minister of Political Affairs: Chong Song-chol, lawyer;
Aide to the Second State Minister of Political Affairs: Kim Chong-suk, deputy spokesman of the DLP;
Administrator of the Office of Supply: Chon Se-pong, deputy administrator of the Office of Supply
Director of the National Police Headquarters: Kim Hyoun, director of the local police headquarters of Seoul;
Commissioner of the Office of National Tax Administration: Chu Kyong-sok, current Commissioner of the Office of National Tax Administration;
Director of the Office of Customs Administration: Kim Kyong-tae, deputy director of the Office of Customs Administration;
Director of the Office of Military Manpower Administration: Om Sam-tak, chief secretary of the Agency for National Security Planning;
Director of the Office of Rural Development: Yi Pansok, governor of North Kyongsang Province;
Director of the Office of Forestry: Cho Nam-cho, former lawmaker;
Director of the Office of National Fisheries Administration: Yi Hui-su, former deputy director of the Office of National Fisheries Administration
Director of the Industrial Advancement Administration: Chae Chae-ok, first assistant minister of the Ministry of Trade and Industry;
Director of the Office of Patent Administration: An Kwang-ku, second assistant minister of the Ministry of Trade and Industry;
Director of the Office of National Railroads: Kang Sin-tae, deputy director of the Office of National Railroads;
Director of the Korea Maritime and Port Administration: Yom Tae- sop, director of planning and management of the Ministry of Transporation;
Chief Secretary to the Prime Minister: Yi Hyo-kye, governor of South Cholla Province;
Director of the Administrative Coordination Office: Kim Si- hyong, vice minister of the Ministry of Energy Resources;
Secretary General of the Advisory Council on Peaceful Unification Policy: Kim Yo-hyon, chairman of the Songtong Ul district party of the DLP;
Vice Chairman of the Emergency Planning Committee: Chong Won-ho, former education commander of the Air Force;
Chairman of the Fair Trade Commission: Han Yi-hon, special aide to the DLP president;
Chairman of the National History Compilation Committee: Pak Yong-sok, current chairman of the National History Compilation Committee;
Chairman of the National Education Evaluation Institute: Mo Yong-ki, director of the University Education Office;
Chairman of the Central Civil Servants Education Institute: Pak Hae-chun, chairman of the Petition Deliberation Committee;
Chairman of the Petition Deliberation Committee: Yun Chang-su, director of planning and management of the government building of the Minister of Government Administration;
Deputy Mayor of Seoul: U Myong-kyu, director general of the Seoul Metropolitan Subway Construction Headquarters;
Chairman of the Emergency Planning Committee: Chon Yong-taek, director general of strategic planning of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Spokesman Names New Provincial Governors, City Mayors

SK0403022793 Seoul KBS-1 Television Network in Korean 0110 GMT 4 Mar 93

[Text] This morning, Home Minister Yi Hae-ku announced the following list of new local city mayors and provincial governors:
Pusan city mayor: Chong Mun-hwa, vice minister of the Ministry of Government Administration;
Taegu city mayor: Yi Ui-ik, an assistant for home affairs in the Democratic Liberal Party;
Inchon city mayor: Choe Ki-son, ex-national assemblyman;
Kwangju city mayor: Kang Yong-ki, vice South Cholla provincial governor;
Taejon city mayor: Yom Hong-chol, presidential secretary for political affairs;
Kyonggi provincial governor: Yun Se-tal, director of the Home Ministry's Civil Defense Headquarters;
Kangwon provincial governor: Ham Chong-han, exnational assemblyman;
North Chungchong provincial governor: Kim Tok-yong, presidential secretary for administration affairs;
South Chungchong provincial governor: Yi Tong-u, director of Office of Rural Development Administration;
North Cholla provincial governor: Yi Kang-yon, director of the Marine Police Force;
South Cholla provincial governor: Yi Kyun-pom, head of the Board of directors of Seoul City Facility Management Corporation;
North Kyongsang provincial governor: Yi Ui-kun, director of the Planning and Management Office of the Home Ministry;
South Kyongsang provincial governor: Yun Han-to, assistant minister of the Home Ministry;

Cheju provincial governor: U Kun-min, present Cheju provincial governor.

* Democratic Party's Future After Kim Tae-chung

Nationwide Support Base

932C0076A Seoul MAEIL KYONGJE SINMUN in Korean 20 Jan 93 p 2

[By reporter Ho Chun: "The Democratic Party Moving Vigorously in 'Search for a New Image'; Faces Two

Major Tasks: Divesting Itself of the Parochial Party Image, Shifting to a Policy-Oriented Party"]

[Text] Is the Democratic Party [DP] sailing on well without "Kim Tae-chung"?

Against the general concerns, the ship DP, in the main, appears to be sailing smoothly under the transitional Yi Ki-taek leadership.

It had been forecast that the party would face rough going in the wake of the shock from its defeat in the presidential election and post-Kim Tae-chung infighting. But, thanks to a consensus within and without that this was the time for it to demonstrate solidarity, the DP could minimize the shock, and the latest public ratings are that it is making headway building its image as No. 1 opposition and a policy-oriented party.

Chairman Yi Ki-taek on 20 January invited representatives of organizations for small and medium industries to the National Assembly to discuss support for small and medium enterprises. After that, he called a general meeting of DP legislators, then a meeting of the DP Executive Committee and that of top party executives, in what appeared to be an effort to make sure the party unity.

Also, Yi is expected to speak on the future course of the DP and his political plans at a New Year press conference on 26 January.

—The DP was stricken with a serious case of debility in the aftermath of its presidential election defeat.

While the Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] was enhancing its standing as the ruling party, the DP was not even close to having its strategy to cope with it as the leading opposition; it even appeared as if the whole party had been engulfed in a post-Kim Tae-chung power struggle.

Determined to come out of this crisis, however, the DP at a recent Supreme Committee session formed an evaluation committee on Sixth Republic policies.

It decided to comprehensively analyze and appraise the No Tae-u administration's records through this committee, and on that basis to weigh the possibility of invoking the parliamentary right to investigate and hold hearings. Thus, the DP is rapidly intensifying an offensive against the ruling camp, a move it had avoided for sometime.

These activities are interpreted as signaling the DP's intent to reestablish its stand as No. 1 opposition party, drive in a "wedge" to hold the ruling camp in check, and to gain an advantage in its offensive against the new administration.

In addition, the DP Special Committee for Revision or Abolition of Undemocratic Laws led by Pak Sang-chon, at its first meeting on 19 January, decided to push for revision or repeal of all undemocratic laws in the political, economic, social and cultural realms. It then began full-scale work to implement the decision on behalf of 8 million reform supporters.

Also, through its committee to deal with subversive, pro-communism allegations against the DP, as well as various investigative groups, the DP is expressing in various ways its will to reach beyond a mere political offensive and confront the DLP on the basis of policy.

Especially, with regard to appraisal work on the Sixth Republic, Chairman Yi Ki-taek showed his strong will to carry it out, saying: "For the purpose of leaving correct historical data, among other things, the opposition as the critic and the partner of the state administration should carry out such appraisals by all means."

—Along with the offensive against the ruling camp, the DP is actively pushing programs to improve the quality of the party.

At the outset of the new year, Chairman Yi Ki-taek proclaimed 1993 as "the first year of the DP as a policy-oriented party," stressing the need to reestablish the party as such in every practical way.

The DP is unanimous in recognizing that its pressing task is to shift to a new "no policy, no winning of power" philosophy, boldly divesting itself of opposition politics of the past days, actively participating in government, and presenting its alternatives.

In this connection, the DP also laid plans to conduct a survey of what the public views as the ideal image of the opposition, through hearings or by other means in early February.

Especially, in respect to its campaign pledges in the 14th presidential election, the DP will make a review and leave their accommodation to the new government on the basis of its outcome. It also plans to push for gradual reforms through legislative activities in the National Assembly.

On 16 January, Chairman Yi Ki-taek made a personal, fact-finding visit with a business firm in Inchon cited for failure to pay its bills. Then, on 20 January, he invited officials of the Industrial Complex for Development of Small and Medium Enterprises and other organizations concerned to the National Assembly to discuss problems about small and medium businesses which are currently in great financial straits, focusing on causes involved and countermeasures. Party officials explain that these activities led by Chairman Yi are part of the DP drive for reforms.

Moreover, the DP, showing a quickened pace, has reached agreement with the United People's Party [UPP] on requesting an extraordinary National Assembly session to consider measures concerning small and medium enterprises.

—The DP is thus making swift moves to take the initiative in a manner worthy of No. 1 opposition party in future political developments; at the same time, however, it is taking considerable pains over how to redefine its policy lines and its stand in coping with the Kim Yong-sam presidency whose inauguration is set for late February.

In this connection, the DP Supreme Committee met in an informal session on 20 January and agreed to accelerate the effort to elect a new party leadership to effectively confront the mighty ruling party.

However, the DP's course of action and its future are directly linked to how it sets the coordinates for its role as No. 1 opposition party—which is to check the Kim Yong-sam regime—as well as to future political developments; therefore, the lineup of the new leadership is likely to be a factor influencing the nation's future politics.

To be born again, the DP has to cross the watershed, namely a "national convention" scheduled for 11 March.

The transformation made under the transitional leadership should be carried into the post-convention party life so that the DP can firmly establish its image as No. 1 opposition party.

Currently, the next-generation leaders running for leadership posts, including chairman and Supreme Committee members, agree that the convention should be held under the great principle of solidarity and harmony, and amid a festive mood and favorable national responses.

The DP will indeed put a new leadership in place at the national convention, but the question of how it should shake off its "regional party" image is likely to remain unsolved.

Therefore, the DP should in the future transform itself into a party capable of winning power, not just "an opposition party for the sake of opposition," by boldly opening its door to young talents and placing greater emphasis on policy developing functions.

DP Needs Fresh Start

932C0076B Seoul TONGA ILBO in Korean 16 Jan 93 p 5

[By Yi Chong-pok, Seoul National University political science professor: "The DP [Democratic Party] Should be Born Again"]

[Text] The DP [Democratic Party] remains unable to come out of the shock from Kim Tae-chung's defeat in the presidential election and his subsequent retirement from politics.

Although DP officials say they are going to hold a national convention to elect a new leadership in March, it alone is apparently not enough for the DP to find a way out. The reason: Whoever becomes the new leader, he simply cannot hope to fill Kim Tae-chung's shoes.

We cannot but be seriously concerned about this vacuum in the DP for several reasons. First, the DP is virtually the only opposition in this country, at least for now. There is indeed the UPP [United Peoples Party], but a glance at its current plight makes one wonder how long it will last anyway. Even if it manages to survive, the UPP, for its government-oriented support base, can hardly be expected to function as an opposition party in the true sense of the word. Meanwhile, as for Rep. Pak Chan-chong's Sinjong Party, it has only one seat in the parliament, while the masses camp again suffered a miserable defeat in the presidential election.

Secondly, since the DP is virtually the only opposition party for now, there is the potential danger of the current vacuum causing a blank in overall democratic government. It is because the existence of one or more strong opposition parties is an indispensable condition for democratic government.

In countries where democracy is functioning well, there are invariably strong opposition parties and their vigorous activities. If the vacuum in the DP should continue, it would bring on the greater danger of allowing the DLP an unchecked, free run.

Thirdly, the vacuum in the DP is by no means a help to the stamping out of corruption and irregularities as promised by President-elect Kim Yong-sam. Only when the DP mounts a forceful fight against corruption and irregularities, whether involving the present or the incoming administration, and only when the DP pushes for reforms to eliminate unearned incomes that benefit only a handful of people will it become possible for Kim Yong-sam to carry out his reform plans, to whatever extent. Since Kim was elected with a considerable amount of help from those who are vulnerable to becoming targets of reform, he will have to overcome the resistance and undermining by them to carry out his reforms. And to that end, he needs the pressures from the DP.

Then, how can the DP come out of the post-election vacuum? The question is directly linked to its overcoming the two factors responsible for the vacuum itself: the defeat in the presidential election and Kim Tae-chung's retirement from politics.

First of all, in order for the DP to recover from the election defeat, it should look into problems involved more closely and establish new policy lines to correct them. In this respect, however, the DP does not appear to be engaged in any serious self-scrutiny.

The DP merely attributes its defeat to regional animosities among our people. It is not necessarily a wrong diagnosis. But it is not a hundred percent correct diagnosis either. DP legislators should stop to ponder what were there other than such animosities to cause the election defeat. There is a need to take another close look at such facts as that the DP, welcoming President No Tae-u's declaration of neutrality, decided to refrain from attacking flaws in his administration and, consequently, failed to highlight its own policy alternatives, as well as discriminations against it. Also, there is a need for a closer look at whether its coalition with the National Democratic Alliance of Korea really helped to get votes. If the DP should go on and draw its future lines correctly on the basis of the outcome of the self-scrutiny, its popularity ratings are bound to rise. Especially, in the case of the voter support that led to the election of Kim Yong-sam, a passive support by voters dissatisfied with the DP or the UPP candidate accounted for a larger part than a positive support for Kim himself. This means that the potential support for the DP is substantially large.

With regard to reforms proposed by President-elect Kim, including the public disclosures of property by high officials in public service and the mandatory use of real names in financial transactions, the DP should not just sit back and watch any longer but move to urge their early implementations. For the outgoing administration, too, it should make thorough investigations and sort out any suspected cases of corruption and irregularities.

Over these issues, the DP can take a far stronger position than President-elect Kim does, and for this reason the DP seems to have an advantage over the DLP in gaining public support. If the threat of North Korea remains unabated, and if the middle class continues to expand and its living standards retain the upward trends, even at a slow pace, the DP—as I pointed out earlier—will be able to stick to a far more disciplined position than the DLP does over the corruption and other issues, although its policy lines cannot be dramatically different from the DLP's.

Next, the DP should have the wisdom of taking Kim Tae-chung's retirement as an opportunity for the modernization and democratization of its organization. It had been a party so overwhelmingly dependent on one person, Kim Tae-chung, that one could safely call it "the Kim Tae-chung Party." This trait characteristic of the DP was the very factor responsible for its present state of vacuum.

Now, its legislators can more freely form intraparty factions according to their ideologies and affiliations. They should work out game rules among themselves and accelerate democratization within the party. Meanwhile, the game rules and democracy thus established will contribute to institutionalizing the DP organizationally and to strengthening it qualitatively.

As regards the intraparty controversy over the upcoming election of a new leadership, it is not a matter of major concern for the public whether the DP elects "chairman first, then Supreme Committee members" or vice versa. However, if it should fail to hold the elections under fair game rules to reestablish its leadership, it will have to see more and more people turning their backs on it.

The DP should take its defeat in the presidential election and Kim Tae- chung's retirement as an opportunity to re-create itself into a political party worthy of a greater trust of the public in terms of both policy and organization.

* Priorities for New Administration Listed

Ten Priority Issues

932C0074A Seoul HANGUK ILBO in Korean 1 Jan 93 p 5

[By reporters Hwang Yong-sik, Yi Chae-yol, and Kwon Tae-ik: "Dealing with 'Korean Diseases' To Determine Success of Reform"]

[Text] A civilian government era should lead to the creation of civilian culture, creating a momentum for improvement in overall social levels.

Civilian culture does not come by itself. We must first overcome and correct numerous problems that lie ahead of us.

President-elect Kim Yong-sam, terming "Korean diseases" the phenomena of social ailment from the accumulated consequences of the 32 years of military culture, defined the society for the incoming civilian government to build as "a New Korea."

Ringing in 1993, the first year of the civilian government era, we have picked 10 priority tasks facing it. And here is a look at factors involved and ways to accomplish them. They pointedly reflect structural contradictions of our society and therefore solutions to them are eagerly awaited.

National Harmony

Physiologically, military rule employs division as a way to control. While spawning troubles between geographic regions and glossing over frictions between social strata, it creates its power base through a coalition with the Establishment.

The imminent era of civilian government bears the inevitable responsibility for ending all these evil practices and for restoring national harmony and guaranteeing equal rights for all.

The military culture era, one may say, structured its reign on an alliance between the top leadership and a small number of Establishment forces. If so, the civilian government era should usher in the culture of coexistence based on a broad support from lower levels.

To that end, it is, of all things, most urgent that the class that has been enjoying their vested privileges are made to yield the way. Those who have been tortured by division and friction should be awarded compensations, however meager.

President-elect Kim should, first of all, launch unremitting long-term efforts to bring inter-regional and inter-strata troubles under control. Such government efforts ought to begin with expediting certain concessions to be made by the privileged in the private sector.

It is suggested, especially, that the new government accord the Honam region fair considerations in the development and personnel areas, for all the gravest social and psychological discriminations it has been subjected to for whatever reasons.

Meanwhile, in the course of rapid economic growth, the people of lower strata had to endure the relative feelings of deprivation, and these feelings must not be left to deepen further. Measures should be taken, on a sustained basis, to promote the working people's interests such as the cost-of-living allowance and expanded social welfare programs.

That the government ought to maintain neutrality in labor-management disputes, and things like that are fundamental demands of the civilian government era.

Enhancing Self-Regulation of the Economy

It can be said that the two pillars that support the civilian rule era are, politically, fully-developed freedoms and democracy and, economically, a full-fledged market economy.

Success of political democracy is determined by whether the climate of oppression is cleared up, while enhancing the self-regulation of the economy can be attained only through efforts to come out of the traditional government-controlled economy.

In recent years, our economy has indeed made relative gains in the roles of the private sector as it expanded quantitatively. But the private sector remains considerably restricted in the degree of self-regulation.

The new government should, in its basic strategy for national industrial development, strive for an image of an "effective small government" for itself by preventing excessive competition, eliminating special favors for *chaebol* [industrial conglomerates], reducing the public-sector expenditure and boldly pushing privatization.

Especially, considering that a basic evil of the government-controlled economy in the past was preferentialism in mergers and consolidations of financial institutions and corporations, its correction is an urgent demand.

The most vital key to financial self-regulation can be found in the independence or increased autonomy of the central bank, and in freeing city banks from the fetters of official guidance policy. Deregulating the monetary flow could be a starting point for raveling out all distorted phenomena of the economy.

At the same time, it is the minimum responsibility of the new government to suppress *chaebol's* advances into the financial industry and tighten control of the mutual investment and payment certification practices among their affiliates.

Insolvent firms issuing bad checks should be dealt with strictly; however, in cases involving a major impact on the economy, the government might consider absorbing the shock by converting them to public enterprises.

Eliminating Structural Corruption

President-elect Kim vowed to be a "clean president" on a number of occasions. He stated that when he has served out his term, he would return home to his Sangdodong residence empty-handed.

Where there is a will like this, and if it is carried through to the end, there is a way to clean up our society, however corrupt. Sociologists largely agree that the root cause of corruption in the Korean society is in the corruption of its leadership class.

Corruption from above spreads through the whole spectrum of society, down to the lower reaches of government and general public, then finding its way back upward again. This vicious cycle can be cut only by a resolute will of the chief executive and his action.

This is the reason why we expect President-elect Kim to set an example in keeping clean not only himself but also every one around him including relatives, in-laws, aides, and associates.

The next task is for him to break the chronic government-business collusion. The "demand" of the political sphere for corruption must be cut at its source through the public disclosures of political funds and the full public funding of elections, while at the same time the "supply" of corruption by enterprises must be rooted out by establishing the open tender system in government-ordered projects and barring preferentialism.

Also, for high-ranking officials, privileges that are non-economic and honorary in nature should be strengthened to make them aware of the pride of public service, whereas for lower-level officials the pay scale should be improved, thus preventing them from yielding to temptations.

After all, when these practical measures are put in place and fulfilled, they will incomparably enhance the society's self-cleansing capability.

Ending Regional Animosity

The civilian government bears the heavy responsibility for finding a solution to animosities between the eastern and western provinces of the country. As the presidential election clearly demonstrated it, the Yongnam versus Honam [Kyongsang vs. Cholla] animosity shows no sign of relenting.

President-elect Kim himself offered a comment diagnosing the severe inter-regional confrontation as the most serious case of Korean disease. Especially, since their defeat in the election, the people of Honam have been more than disappointed. They are in the depth of frustration.

Therefore, the civilian government, with a view to narrowing the regional emotional gap, should launch a grand pacification program. In particular, a bold personnel policy is more urgently needed than anything else.

The pressing task is to end the practice of favoritism in government appointments to major posts for figures from certain provinces, and to establish the principle of the right person in the right place based on his or her ability.

At the same time, the civilian government should prepare policies to redress lopsidedness in local economic development and ensure fairness for all localities. To that end, it should, in accordance with its campaign pledge, work for "legislation ensuring balanced regional development" and thus guarantee fairness in local development institutionally.

It could also be a way to resolve regional animosities to bring the local autonomy system into effect at an earlier date, so that local residents have increased opportunities for "self-government" and thus have their demand for a role in government met.

Solving Inter-Strata Troubles

The process of industrialization in our country has led to the problem of the rich getting richer and the poor getting poorer, and thus to serious troubles between social strata.

The civilian government bears the historic responsibility for resolving the deep-seated friction in the relationship between strata. Frictions develop mainly from the disparity in wealth, but there are other factors responsible for it, too, including the government's inability to establish legitimate incomes for members of different strata.

With a view to resolving such frictions, the new government should consider expanding direct expenditure, e.g., for an increase in the minimum living-cost support for the destitute on welfare.

Also, the new government is urged to develop policies that will expand welfare services and thus generate real gains in income for the low-income class. To that end, it needs to operate facilities like day nurseries and senior citizens homes, not as "commercial" activities but from the standpoint of "service."

Also, there should be rational readjustments made to ensure that every stratum is equal under the law.

The new government should establish legitimate incomes for members of different strata and thereby remove a potential cause of friction. To that end, it should give highest priority to institutionalizing the mandatory use of real names in financial transactions so as to bring down the underground economy. At the same time, in regard to land, the new government should introduce the concept of public ownership on land, rooting out real estate speculation once and for all. It will thus see that no one lives on an unearned income and that there are no grievances about an income gap.

Establishing a New Image of the Military

The civilian government is charged with a historic mission—namely, to officially put an end to the military rule that has continued since 1961. The fact that a purely civilian leader, not an ex-military officer, was elected to the presidency is, in itself, of special significance for the new government in its relationship with the military.

However, the election of a purely civilian leader as president does not mean by itself the consummation of a civilian government era. The civilian government, true to the term, means civilian control over the military.

To that end, the civilian government is confronted by the problem of returning the relatively overblown image of the military to its normal state.

To solve the problem, in visible terms, the civilian government should first of all cease the practice of granting ex-military figures preferential treatment. Former governments often appointed retired generals to ambassadorial or other posts, or arranged "seats" for them in state-run enterprises or their affiliated organizations. There were even reports now and then of national-constituency seats in the National Assembly being used to arrange them a post-retirement place.

Within the military, its massive structures should be rearranged boldly and reorganized effectively. Varied intelligence branches and security functions should be unified respectively. Organizations existing only in name should be scaled back or dismantled.

Meanwhile, the defense budget should no longer be treated as a sanctuary. It should be disclosed to the public and placed under rigorous auditing.

Also, in respect for its campaign pledge to achieve national reunification within this century, the civilian government should push forward arms control of an appropriate level while at the same time advancing a military buildup program through modernization of equipment.

Image of Public Security Agencies

A task facing the new government is to redefine the duties of public security agencies. The course leading up to the presidential election and its after-effects demonstrated most graphically the need for resolving this issue, which even the neutral cabinet [appointed by President No Tae-u] has failed to resolve.

It had been repeatedly pledged that "agencies" including the Agency for National Security Planning [ANSP] and the Military Security Command would return to their original duties upon the start of the neutral cabinet. While political quarters and the public remained dubious of the pledge being put to practice in earnest, those agencies have indeed been unable to transcend the deep-rooted old perceptions.

The situation is the same with the prosecution investigating the scandal involving agency chiefs in Pusan accused of campaign conspiracy and other election law violations. It is, in fact, vexed by charges of partiality amid voices of total nonconfidence from the opposition camp.

Especially, prosecutors whose investigations into public security cases in the past had been so relentless that people coined the term "public security-dominated politics" were thrown into a controversy over their fairness in the course of investigation into the Pusan case and other election-related scandals. They are accused of being oversensitive to change in the direction of the political.

The effort to restore these "agencies" to their original posture should begin with a resolute will and determination on the part of President-elect Kim.

Himself a victim of agency activities the past 30-odd years, Kim is drawing expectations that he will, more than anybody else, find himself in a position free and easy to stamp out the wrong practice of using intelligence agencies for the purpose of protecting the regime.

At the same time, he should push for the necessary follow-ups such as an amendment to the ANSP Law and other complementary institutional measures. Professional boundaries should be reestablished, and along with all this, each organization should internally undertake self-examinations and improvements.

Establishing Social Discipline

Another pressing task of the new government is to clean up the social climate rife with irregularities, corruption and bribing which President-elect Kim in person termed "Korean diseases" and, for that purpose, to reestablish social discipline.

Kim already proposed during the campaign a cleanness-from-the-upper-stream drive, disclosing his property. He kept stating emphatically his will to eradicate irregularities and corruption.

The president-elect committed himself to becoming "a model in renewing the social climate." Stressing his resolve for a forceful push for the maintenance of public peace and order, he stated that "I will see that our daughters are safe on streets at nighttime."

However, eradicating irregularities and corruption was a favorite theme at every turnover in power in the past; it is yet to be achieved, however.

Despite the endlessly repeated promise of law and order in the people's livelihood, the level of security as physically felt by our people remains short of the expectations. This proves anew that the recovery of overall social discipline is by no means an easy task.

The new government should take the lead in the rebuilding of social discipline through the recovery of morality.

To secure public peace and order, the new government should give priority to institutionally creating the necessary conditions by, among other things, guaranteeing independence and self-control for the police force to keep it from being influenced by pressures from outside, and by simultaneously advancing the specialization of its manpower and the modernization of equipment.

At the same time, it is felt that the new government, while setting examples in dealing with "Korean diseases," should endeavor to induce a consensus and consent of members of society on specific programs.

Rebuilding Rule of Law

On account of their vulnerability in legitimacy, the successive regimes made use of the arbitrariness in the application of law—along with the physical legal force—as a means to keep themselves in power.

The start of a civilian regime is to put to rest the controversy over legitimacy; therefore, it can be said that a better environment has been promised for the new government in which to recover the rule of law and order.

One may say that foundations have been laid to reinforce the shaky rule of law.

The new government, while dropping charges in election-related cases for the sake of national reconciliation, made it clear that it would deal with criminal cases strictly according to the law, a fact interpreted as an expression of its will to tighten the rule of law.

However, in the Pusan agency chiefs scandal, there was a problem as criticized involving the application of the law. Hence, priority should, needless to say, be given to ensuring fairness and equality; the prerequisite in this respect is to have the sympathy of the people.

Therefore, many are of the opinion that the new government's efforts to ensure the rule of law should take on a new look in the course of dealing with cases of election law violations and other after-effects of the presidential election. The reason: By being resolute in enforcing justice with relatively minor cases involving one's own aides or factions in the Democratic Liberal Party [DLP], the prestige of a regime dedicated to fair and rigorous law enforcement gains additional strength.

Furthermore, the key to a genuine civilian rule era in which the "justice of law" prevails can be found in a modest posture of the regime keeping all its acts of the state and its radius of action within the bounds of law.

Creating Foundations for Reunification

The civilian government is asked to develop a reunification policy that is more open and flexible than those pursued by its predecessors.

Many have accused the successive regimes—weak as they were in legitimacy—of formulating reunification policies behind the closed doors and without the backing of the public opinion. Also, they left behind them some indelible traces of having used the North Korea card to bolster their feeble power base.

However, as the curtain is about to rise on an era of genuine civilian era, the new government is about to take upon itself the obligation of freely pursuing—free of political colors—reunification measures in the true, broader interests of the Korean nation. Also, in the conduct of dialogue with North Korean authorities, it bears the responsibility for making the steps it takes more cautious and open.

At the same time, it is confronted with the task to be fully prepared for a reunification era whenever it may come.

The first step to pave the way for reunification could be an effort to put in place a firm framework of genuine peace on the Korean Peninsula. It includes, for instance, developing patiently the North-South dialogue, signing a peace agreement at an early date, and reaching accords on an arms reduction and related issues.

Next, efforts should be made for the recovery of national homogeneity. An era of interchange and cooperation should be opened expeditiously and, through various types of personal and material exchanges, the true feeling of "being one" should be created. In addition, considering the financial cost of reunification, the new government should strive to build up the inner strength of our economy.

The basis for all this should be a reunification policy that in turn is based on a national consensus.

More Priority Tasks Disclosed

932C0074B Seoul TONGA ILBO in Korean 9 Jan 93 p 5

[Commentary by Kim Cha-su: "Outline Unveiled of 'Kim Yong-sam Reform'—Background of 'Priority Tasks' Picked by DLP [Democratic Liberal Party"]

[Text] The DLP [Democratic Liberal Party"] disclosed on 8 January a list of 27 priority tasks it had prepared for President-elect Kim Yong-sam. The next government's reform program thus began taking shape.

The 27 policy tasks picked by the DLP Policy Board are for Kim Yong-sam to implement or get on with in the first year of his presidency. They were selected, on the basis of priority, from his 77 campaign pledges, his public pledges on local development and those to professional groups,the main substance of them had already been known. The Policy Board will reportedly add two or three more items, adopting approximately 30 items altogether as priority policy tasks.

The Policy Board's plan is to present them to President-elect Kim sometime next week for initial study and to prepare a specific program of implementation within this year. In this connection, Board Chairman Hwang In-song said: "While the party is to draw basic strategic plans such as the funding for the selected priority tasks, they will possibly be put to a review after the start of the new government to work out more specific implementation plans and reform programs." He thus suggested that the released list is an initial effort to determine the first-year direction of Kim's reform policy.

The announced 27 priority tasks can be divided roughly into three categories: general administration, economic, and socio-cultural.

Most characteristic of the 10 tasks of the general administration category is that they are for backing up what President-elect Kim set forth as a "clean and strong government." They are designed to flesh out the "clean and strong government" frame through the creation of five committees—a central personnel committee to be placed under the direct control of the president, an irregularities prevention committee, an election system reform committee, an administrative reform promotion committee, and an education reform committee.

President-elect Kim, asserting that "personnel administration servers as a criterion for all the rest," continued to stress the need to end the regional animosities, and for personnel reshuffles to renew the bureaucracy climate. The plan for a central personnel committee is for backing him up in this area. Meanwhile, the planned irregularities prevention committee represents a resolve to create a law-abiding society and promote clean politics by putting into practice a "cleanness-from-the-upper-stream movement" as proposed by Kim and an anticorruption declaration by leadership members, and by stamping out collusion between the administration and businesses.

Also included in this category are items envisaging a great national harmony to be achieved through a sweeping decree of amnesty and rehabilitation, the erasing of minor criminal records, and a national movement for change in the way of thinking.

Another set of 10 tasks were picked in the economic category, focusing on the revitalization of the sluggish economy to increase growth potential and improve efficiency and equity. As the most pressing tasks, the Policy Board puts emphasis on bolstering economic management plans of the No Tae-u administration, and on devising strategy dealing with the Uruguay Round (UR). Party officials explain that while the current basic plans of economic management call for no major change because they already substantially reflect the DLP views, they do see the need for revisions on several minor points, including the interest rate parts. With regard to the upcoming UR negotiations, while the public attention is currently preoccupied with the rice market issue, a settlement on that issue will produce a sweeping impact on the whole spectrum of our economy, including the service and financial industries, should it ever come. With that in mind, they suggest, there is a need to put together comprehensive countermeasures.

The selected economic tasks also include: taking measures to foster small and medium enterprises and promote their financial stability; pushing fiscal and tax reforms; pursuing new industrial policies; advancing financial reform; implementing new agricultural administration policies; mapping strategy for accelerating balanced local development; establishing a new land policy, and preparing implementation plans on the housing policy for the people. In their selection, the focus was put on redressing the ailing parts of our economy and expanding the self-regulatory function of the private sector.

The DLP has concluded that the nation's economic revitalization is impossible without first stabilizing management of small and medium enterprises which are currently in financial difficulties. Based on that judgement, the party is set to prepare basic programs for the new government to get on with immediately after its start.

The selected seven socio-cultural tasks focus on the nation's traffic, environmental and housing problems the solution of which is awaited by the people. To resolve traffic congestions, they call for the creation of a "traffic planning group" under the president's direct control, indicating that traffic administration will be conducted at the presidential level.

As regards the housing issue, the DLP plans for economic management putting emphasis on increasing the opportunity for low-paid workers and the destitute and slum residents to acquire their houses.

To improve the quality of life and create more comfortable environment, the list includes environment-related tasks, among them special measures to be drawn to protect water supply sources, put into place consolidated disposal system of various wastes and expand supply of pollution-free fuel.

Also included in the priority tasks of the socio-economic category are revising administrative districts, increasing local private broadcasting and CATV [community antenna television] facilities, promoting scientific and technological innovations, and improving military service system.

For smooth progress in the carrying-out of these priority tasks, the DLP plans to finalize the required basic implementation measures before the start of the new government, in consultation with the present administration.

However, problems have been pointed out of the announced list prepared by the Policy Board's three coordinating groups, including that the parts dealing with the housing policy for the people and a special housing supply program for workers who do not own their houses are separately listed but they overlap each other. Furthermore, there are opinions being heard inside and outside the DLP to the effect that the building of a New Korea as promised by President-elect Kim requires new tasks to be picked in addition to those representing the known campaign pledges so as to facilitate bolder and more fundamental reforms.

* NSP Braces for Shake-Up Under New Republic

932C0080A Seoul CHUGAN CHOSON in Korean 4 Feb 93 pp 20-23

[Article by reporter U Chong-chan: "Change in Store for the NSP [Agency for National Security Planning], a Synonym for the Agent of Political Maneuvering"]

[Text] It was 14 January. On that day the Agency for National Security Planning [NSP] was scheduled to brief the presidential transition team on its operations. Never before did President-elect Kim Yong-sam get so mad as on that day. This was because he was told that the NSP attempted to make the activities of the transition team "adjusted" to the past practices of the NSP. The trouble started when there arose the question of where the briefing was to take place.

At first, the NSP conveyed its desire to the transition team to make the briefing at the NSP headquarters in Imundong, Seoul, saying, "it is necessary to watch videotapes in order to fully understand the NSP operations and that the contents of the briefing are confidential." The transition team's subcommittee on reunification, foreign, and security affairs, the take-over group for the NSP, gave a nod to the NSP request in view of the past practice of similar briefing being made at the NSP headquarters in Imundong. (Assemblymen Chong Wonsik, Pak Kwan-yong, and Yi Hwan-ui are the members of this subcommittee.)

The news of this arrangement reached President-Elect Kim's ears. Upon hearing the story, the president-elect blew up, "this is a new age, yet..." He got mad because while officials of all other ministries came to the transition team's office in Youido to make their briefing, only the NSP officials wanted to have the transition team come to their office to hear their briefing while they themselves were "sitting back" in their office.

The president-elect instructed the transition team to "tell the NSP officials immediately to come to Youido to make their briefing." Surprised at the instruction, the said subcommittee let the NSP know this atmosphere and changed the site of the briefing from Imundong to

Youido. As a result, First Deputy Director Son Chin-kon and other NDP officials went to the transition team's Youido office to make their briefing.

Whether the NSP should make the briefing on its operations at Youido or at Imundong may be a minor matter. But the episode is worthy of note in the sense that it gives an inkling of how President-Elect Kim views the NSP.

At the threshold of the "Kim Yong-sam era," there is a high public interest in what kind of status change the NSP will undergo. How the status of the NSP will change in the age of civilian government cannot but be a matter of concern not only for the NSP personnel but also for the public in general. This is because for the NSP personnel, the change will directly affect their "future," and for the majority of people, the NSP has been an object of fear.

A status change of the NSP has long been anticipated. During his election campaign, Mr. Kim Yong-sam made the pledge that "the NSP shall only be charged with anticommunist duties." In an interview by Japanese newspaper ASAHI that took place after he was elected, Mr. Kim clearly said: "The NSP has until now engaged in political activities. I am among those who sustained direct damage from them. I will regard it my responsibility to make the NSP politically neutral and concentrate on collecting overseas information and information on North Korea."

Therefore, it is clear that the NSP in the Kim Yong-sam era will different in one way or the other. The only question is how it will change, namely, the question of its "image." A transition official said: "No definite decision has been made regarding the NSP's status change. However, there is a great possibility of change in these three aspects: the name of the NSP, the NSP Act, and the turf of NSP operations."

The same official said: "Its machinery and authority will shrink, and its duties will be readjusted. In the future the NSP will place emphasis on the collection of overseas information, science and technology information, and information on North Korea. In addition, there is the possibility of restricting the awesome power of the NSP director through a revision of the NSP Act. At the same time, it is also possible that the present name of the NSP will change. The NSP stands for 'the agency for national security planning,' and the name sounds too awesome. Judging from what it does, the name 'the Central Intelligence Agency seems more appropriate.'"

The same official continued: "I understand that the NSP set up an internal machine called 'the 21st century development committee' to effect an internal transformation and that this committee has studied various possibilities. But the role of the committee was terminated when the presidential transition team was installed." He added, "we, not the NSP, have the final say about what to do with the NSP," thus hinting at the possibility of a considerable change in store for the NSP. The transition team worked out measures to change the status of the NSP and reported them to President-elect Kim on 19 January. The transition team is withholding the announcement of these measures on the grounds that there may be some changes in the suggested measures before being finalized. President-elect Kim plans to issue detailed instructions acting on the report he received from the transition team.

Kim Yong-sam intimates said, "YS [the short form of Kim Yong-sam's name used in the press] expects to remodel the political arena from the past pattern of confrontation between the ruling and opposition parties into the pattern of cooperation and coexistence." They added, "when the political scene changes into the pattern of coexistence between the ruling and opposition parties, there will be no room for the NSP to interfere in domestic politics." They say that given YS' political style, it is highly possible that the prime minister, the senior presidential secretary, and the DLP secretary general will form the axis for managing state affairs.

In that event, the role of the NSP director will diminish relatively and the NSP is expected to concentrate on its "intrinsic duty" of catching spies. This means that the Board of Unification will be upgraded as an organization primarily in charge of inter-Korean issues. This assessment forms the basis for the expectation that the NSP will place primary emphasis on collecting overseas information as well as information on North Korea.

The NSP personnel on the whole seem to have the common perception that the NSP should change as the country enters an era of civilian government. However, they have different views on the methods of change from those of the Kim Yong-sam intimates. According to NSP officials, redefining the turf is not the solution.

High-ranking NSP officials are fond of saying that "the president's concerns are the NSP director's concerns" and that "intelligence is for its users." This is to say that the NSP is an intelligence organization that moves according to the needs of the president. An NSP member said as follows:

"The NSP director meets with the president frequently because he makes a weekly briefing to the president. During these weekly briefing sessions, the NSP director gives information regarding specific individuals as well as information on pending national issues. The main substance of individual intelligence concerns the private lives of the persons involved. We call this portion of the briefing a 'report in the nature of icing.' The successive presidents in the past did not block the collection of this kind of icing intelligence. As soon as the president shows his aversion to this kind of intelligence gathering, we will immediately stop it, for the NSP does not do anything the president does not like."

NSP personnel stress that inasmuch as the president is the only person who can change the NSP, any change in the NSP status will depend more on the "determination of the president" than anything else.

A revision of the NSP Act may be mentioned as the second possible aspect of change in the NSP after a readjustment in its turf of operation. The NSP Act is the source of the formidable power of the NSP director, which is next only to the presidential power.

The "NSP Central Detachment," notorious for its political surveillance, was once said to have been disbanded. But in reality, nothing but its name disappeared, with its office and personnel remaining still intact. They say it is doing the same things as before. The Central Detachment was renamed the Seoul Detachment two years ago. Its present name is the "0 Bureau," 0 being an Arabic number. Reportedly, it still continues to perform "planning and coordinating" activities in the political, economic, labor relations, religious, academic, and publication fields.

On the surface, the NSP is not supposed to engage in political surveillance. But many think otherwise. The division exclusively in charge of political surveillance has changed its name several times. Originally, the "Information Bureau" was in charge of political surveillance. But faced with unfavorable public opinion, it added the word "anticommunist" before its name, calling itself the "Anti-Communist Information Bureau," which is now renamed the 0 Bureau.

This could have happened because of the NSP Act, which provides that the offices of the director, the deputy director, the chief of planning and coordination, and branch chiefs shall be established by presidential decrees, giving a free hand to the NSP director to newly set up or abolish any other office and take whatever personnel actions as he pleases. When a ministry wants to establish a new bureau or section or change its name, it has to go by the presidential decree. But the NSP does not have to go through this process.

There was a happening in the NSP. A few days before stepping down as NSP director taking the responsibility for the distribution of malicious printed materials [against a opposition candidate] by NSP employees, Yi Sang-yon suddenly replaced some of the deputy bureau chiefs with the men close to him although they were not yet qualified for a promotion. Naturally, this sudden action touched off a furor among NSP officials. Aware of this bias, Yi Hyon-u, who succeeded Yi Sang-yon as NSP director, rescinded the personnel action taken by his predecessor. As a result, the new deputy chiefs were demoted all of a sudden—a happening seldom imaginable in the bureaucracy. Therefore, President-elect Kim and his aides believe that to curb the formidable power of the NSP and its director, it is imperative to revise the NSP Act.

Kim Yong-sam's close aide who has been with him for 30 years said, "we were dumfounded when we came to know that the NSP kept tags on every detail of what was going on in Sangdo-tong." He predicted, "the aspect of NSP operation that needs to be probed to the bottom before curtailing the NSP authority and redefining its functions will be wiretapping, a practice that has intimate bearing on the question of protecting the privacy of the citizenry."

As intimated by this aide, the NSP has a separate setup for bugging. It is smaller than a bureau and operates as a detached "group," which can eavesdrop on telephone conversation by using "special bugging devices" without the help of the telephone exchange.

An NSP official said, "we are not the only ones who do eavesdropping; all intelligence organizations throughout the world do it to collect information; Wiretapping is a necessity," said he, "but it should not be abused." He said: "Knowing the fact that the NSP eavesdrops on telephone conversation, men of some distinction in our society use some deviant expressions when they discuss something important over the phone." "The NSP," he said, "is well aware that 80 percent of the information collected by bugging is false."

Through bugging, shadowing, and surveillance, the NSP keeps tabs on the movements not only of politicians but also of high-ranking government figures, key working-level officials in important departments, and general officers of the military. The NSP keeps individual files for these people. All this in the name of "anticommunist surveillance."

In April 1990, following the three-party merger, Kim Yong-sam received an NSP "intelligence paper" from one of his aides. The aide had obtained the paper from an NSP source. The document consisted of three or four pages of sixteenmo in size. It contained the names of those who contributed political funds to Kim Yong-sam, the actions the government was taking with regard to them, and detailed information on the movements of RDP [Reunification Democratic Party]-affiliated assemblymen and their shortcomings. This was a master plan drawn up by the ruling party for the purpose of making Kim Yong-sam politically withering away.

In those days Kim Yong-sam used to say angrily to his close aides, "they think I will be hit unawares, don't they? But my men are there, too." Kim Yong-sam indignantly recalled that he suffered much from the political maneuvering of the NSP during the 1987 presidential election campaign.

In those days the No Tae-u camp prepared a pamphlet titled "Kim Yong-sam Speaks" on the basis of information collected by the NSP. They also prepared two other pamphlets, "Who Is Kim Tae-chung?" and "What Kind of Man Is Kim Chong-pil?" These pamphlets were distributed only to key campaigners of the No Tae-u camp. The pamphlet "Kim Yong-sam Speaks," printed on 14 B4-size pages of copying paper, contained information on Kim Yong-sam's private life, his political style, the method of education for his children, matters concerning the question of his military service, and his political utterances, and all other details. Every detail was given—what happened when and where and how, with the concrete names of places, the time, and the names of persons present, etc. Reportedly, those who read the pamphlet were aghast at the depth of the derails.

One of the Kim Yong-sam aides said, "Kim Yong-sam, being the foremost sufferer from NSP operations, will reform the NSP slowly and quietly." NSP officials said that the power of the NSP could be reduced or contrarily, the NSP could become a still more powerful organization, depending on how the new president will make up his mind regarding the use of the NSP before changing its name, revising the NSP Act, and banning telephone bugging.

According to this aide, if at the first weekly NSP briefing session to be held after his swearing in as president, Kim Yong applies the brake to the so-called "icing report" on private lives of specific persons and tell the NSP officials to "stop doing such useless things," then the NSP will change. Instead if he should show an interest in that kind of privacy report, the NSP will remain unchanged.

* North Fires Southern Affairs Chief Yun Ki-pok

932C0078A Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean 27 Jan 93 p 9

[Article by Chicago Correspondent Yi Chan-sam: "Inside Story of Yun Ki-pok's Removal From His Post as North Korea's South Korean Affairs Chief"]

[Text] In North Korea the official name of the organ in charge of South Korean Affairs is "Tongil Chonson pu," or the "United Front Department," (hereinafter referred to as Tongjonbu [UFD).

Kim Yong-sun (59), who has suddenly been appointed as responsible officer for South Korean Affairs, will be in charge of the UFD.

In terms of the South Korean organizational setup, the UFD corresponds in importance and size to the functions on the North Korean affairs of the ROK Board of Unification and the Agency for National Security Planning combined.

Kang Chu-il (63) is the first deputy director of the UFD, and under him Deputy Director Yim Chun-kil is in charge of South Korean affairs and Deputy Director Han Si-hae is in charge of U.S. affairs.

First Deputy Director Kang Chu-il, who is not well known to South Koreans, is the closest of all close aides to Kim Chong-il and, in realty, is in charge of North Korean strategy toward South Korea.

It was last February that an abnormal atmospheric current began to appear over the UFD.

At that time signs first appeared that the position of Deputy Director Han Si-hae, key aide to Yun Ki-pok, party secretary in charge of anti-South Korean operations and UFD director, was shaky.

Counselor No Chol-su, immediate subordinate of Deputy Director Han, was suddenly subject to a corporal punishment in the hinterland under what they call "labor indoctrination."

Counselor No rose fast when there was a boom of Korean-Americans visiting North Korea following the 7 July statement.

No's job was to screen the applications of Korean residents for a visit to North Korea. In connection with his handling of applications by Korean-Americans who have relatives living in North Korea, as well as by Korean businessmen and journalists in the United States, the party Central Committee is said to have received anonymous letters alleging that he had received a considerable amount of bribe. As a result, he incurred a corporal punishment as mentioned earlier.

No Chol-su visited the United States on several occasions. Once he brought nine copies of the blank invitation form with him and issued letters of invitation on his own authority in exchange for bribes. This proved to be his nemesis.

No Chol-su was rehabilitated shortly after his "labor indoctrination," giving the impression that the North Korean edition of under-the- counter bribery case was settled once and for all. Subsequently, however, Section Chief Kim Su-man, Counselor Kim Yong-su, and No Chol- su—the three key UFD officials with Han Si-hae connection—were dismissed altogether.

Amid this turbulence, the UFD restricted visits to North Korea by Korean-Americans from February through August last year. Following a brief interval, North Korea clamped a total ban on visits by Korean-Americans beginning last November.

A discord began to appear among pro-North Korean organizations in the United States in the latter part of 1990, when a Federation of Korean Businessmen in the United States [FKBUS] was organized. Kim Chon-yong (John Kim by English name) is its chairman.

The sudden emergence of FKBUS resulted in the alienation of the "unification forces" centering on the Council of Unification Organizations in the United States [Tonghyop], who had maintained ties with North Korean authorities.

When North Korean UFD officials visited the United States, FKBUS officials wooed their favor by accommodating them in swank hotels and offering a limousine service, etc. This resulted in the loss of the initiatives on the part of Tonghyop officials.

There were persistent rumors that "Deputy Director Han Si-hae appears to have been shorn of his power, being held responsible for all these allegations."

Reports that the replacement of Yun Ki-pok by Kim Yong-sun as UFD director and his transfer to the post of party secretary in charge of science and culture began to circulate among pro-North Korean organizations in the Korean community in the United States on 17 January. That was the day a Tonghyop official returned home after visiting North Korea to meet the relatives of his wife.

According to him, UFD officials dropped the hint that "it took some time to deal with the aftermath of the bribery case, and the reunification operation (or operation directed at South Korea) through Korean residents in the United States will be reviewed wholesale."

The UFD seems to have reached the conclusion that it has lost as much as it has gained in its operation with Korean residents in the United States.

On balance, on the plus side are: Improvement of North Korea's humanitarian image through reunion of separated family members; the building of supportive organizations similar to the General Federation of Korean Residents in Japan (Chochongnyon); the dispatch of congratulatory groups to the pan-national conference and Kim Il-song's and Kim Chong-il's birthday celebrations; and economic help. On the minus side are: Exposure of life in North Korea as a closed and backward society; the shaky ground of ideological indoctrination; the perception of the affluent life in South Korea; and the antagonism created by the sudden material affluence of family members left behind in North Korea who were heretofore accused of being reactionaries.

This shows that North Korea's operation toward South Korea through Korean residents in the United States is in a dilemma.

Remittances made by Koreans in the United States to their relatives in North Korea exceeded $300,000 in 1992; and as of 26 January this year, the amount stood at $70,000 and is expected to total $1 million at the end of 1993.

There is no way of determining what the appointment of Kim Yong-sun as new UFD chief has to do with the aforementioned irregularities. But it is a fact that North Korea's operations directed at Koreans in the United States has reached the point where they need to be revamped wholesale. What direction this revamping will take in the future is worthy of attention.

Burma

Alternate Chairman Addresses Plenary Session

BK0403043393 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1400 GMT 3 Mar 93

["Excerpts" of speech by Aung Than, alternate chairman of the Panel of Chairmen from the group representing technocrats and intelligentsia, at the plenary session of the National Convention at the President's House compound, Rangoon, on 3 March—recorded]

[Excerpts] Convention delegates representing political parties and various groups held their respective panel discussions and expressed their views and wishes from 24 to 26 February in order to prescribe chapter headings, which constitutes the first stage in laying down basic principles for drafting an enduring state constitution at the National Convention.

Reviewing these submissions we find: Group No. 1, which represents political parties, submitted 10 reports on suggestions from political parties; Group No. 2, which represents elected representatives, submitted two reports on suggestions; Group No. 3, which represents national races, presented one report on suggestions; Group No. 4, which represents peasants, presented one report on suggestions; Group No. 5, which represents workers, presented one report on suggestions; Group No. 6, which represents technocrats and intelligentsia, presented one report on suggestions; Group No. 7, which represents public service personnel, submitted one report on suggestions; and Group No. 8, which represents specially invited delegates, submitted one report on suggestions.

Therefore, altogether there are 18 reports on suggestions and these reports contain a total of 367 headings. The Panel of Chairmen selected the 160 headings which were found to be generally advocating the same ideas. These 160 headings have been further categorized into 20 groups and headings prescribed for each group. [passage omitted]

Based on the origingal 20 groups of headings presented, the following headings can be drawn: Preamble; Fundamental Principles of State; State Structure; Head of State; Legislature; Executive; Judiciary; Defense Services; Local Adminsitration; Citizens and Fundamental Rights and Duties of Citizens; Public Service Personnel; Elections; Political Parties; Provisions for State of Emergency; Amendments to the Constitution, National Flag, Emblem, and Anthem and Capital City; Provisions for Transitional Period; and General Provisions. [passage omitted]

Although headings contained in proposals presented by political parties and various groups may or may not be adopted as actual chapters of the Constitution, they will have the opportunity to discuss them further when chapters are discussed. They will be allowed to carry out discussions more extensively until they are completely satisfied. So, please, do not be too anxious about acceptance of the proposed chapter headings. I urge the delegates to proceed with objective discussions on headines in the panel discussions of their respective groups and present suggestions on what order these headings should be arranged.

Panel discussions on the headings by political parties and various groups can be held starting this afternoon in the respective meeting rooms. There is no time limit for discussions and the delegates can discuss for as long as they want.

I conclude by saying that upon completion of the discussions, the chapter headings and the order of the chapter headings are to be submitted to the National Convention Convening Work Committee. [applause]

3 March Panel Discussions Reported

BK0403080393 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1430 GMT 3 Mar 93

[Text] Panel discussions by eight groups of delegates to the National Convention were held this afternoon in the meeting rooms at the Kyaikkasan Grounds. The panel discussions deliberated on names and arrangements of groups of chapter headings contained in the speech by the alternate chairman at the plenary session of the National Convention today.

The panel discussion by delegates from political parties was held at 1430 in Meeting Room No. 5. U Tha Zan Hla of the National League for Democracy [NLD] chaired the meeting and U Kyi Ya acted as secretary.

U Tun Yi from the National Unity Party [NUP], U Aung Shwe from the NLD, U Sai Aik Thaung from the Shan Nationalities League for Democracy, U Than Tin from the NUP, U Anthony Su, alias U La Yaung, from the Shan State Kokang Democratic Party, and U Saw Than Aung from the Union Karen League participated in the discussions. The panel discussion ended at 1530 after the motion was passed to resume the meeting on 8 March.

The panel discussion by delegates representing elected representatives was held at 1430 in Meeting Room No. 4. U Mahn Tin Aung Than from the Union Karen League presided as chairman, and U Win Nyunt acted as secretary of the meeting.

U Hla Pe from Moulmeingyun constituency, Irrawaddy Division, and U Kyi Win from Zalun constituency, Irrawaddy Division discussed names and arrangement of chapter headings contained in the speech by the alternate chairman at the plenary session of the National Convention today. The panel discussion ended at 1455 after deciding to resume the meeting on 8 March.

The panel discussion by delegates representing national races was held at 1300 today in Meeting Room No. 2. U Nai San Shein of Mon State chaired the meeting, and U San Tun acted as secretary. U Kyi Nyunt of Yangon

Division and U Mya Sein of Mandalay Division, members of the Panel of Discussion, discussed names and arrangement of chapter headings contained in the speech by the alternate chairman at the plenary session of the National Convention.

The following delegates presented their suggestions in response to the discussions by the Panel of Chairmen: U Tin Aung of Pyu Township, Pegu Division; U Thein Soe, Taunggyi Township, Shan State; U Ba Sein, alias Thakin Ba Sein, of Kayan Township, Yangon Division; U Saw Maung Nyein of Bilin Township, Mon State; U Mya Thein of Meiktila Township, Mandalay Division; U Kaung Nyunt of Monywa Township, Sagaing Division; U Aung Hnint of Thaton Township, Mon State; and U Than Shwe of Yenangyaung Township, Magwe Division.

The delegates representing national races then suggested that the names and arrangement of chapter headings contained in the speech by the alternate chairman at today's plenary session of the National Convention should be approved. The meeting ended at 1415.

The panel discussion by delegates representing peasants was held in Meeting Room No. 7 at 1310. U Kan Nyunt of Hkamti, Sagaing Division acted as chairman, and U Thant Zin acted as secretary of the meeting.

The following delegates discussed the names and arrangement of chapter headings contained in the speech by the alternate chairman at today's plenary session of the National Convention: U Thein Lwin of Myaungmya, Irrawaddy Division; U Aung Myint, Bassein West, Irrawaddy Division; U Mya Aye of Kayan, Yangon Township; U Thaung Khin of Shwedaung, Pegu Division; U Mya Thaung of Tada-u, Mandalay Division; U Tin Myint, Waw, Pegu Division; U Win Thein of Natmauk, Magwe Division; and U Htein Lin of Kawthaung, Tenasserim Division. The meeting ended at 1430.

The panel discussion by delegates representing workers was held in Meeting Room No. (?8) today. U San Tin of Bassein West, Irrawaddy Division, presided as chairman, and U Kyaw Tun Lwin acted as secretary. Names and arrangements of chapter heading groups contained in the speech by the alternate chairman at today's plenary session were discussed by: U Sein Nyunt, Mingalataungnyunt, Yangon Division; U Hkun Luk Naw Myitkyina, Kachin State; Daw Tin May Win, Bassein West Township, Irrawaddy Division; U Thein of Kemmenedine Township, Rangoon Division; U Kyaw Kyaw from Mandalay Southwest Towship, Mandalay Division; U Tun Hla of Shwepyithar, Yangon Division; U Gei Khwi Shing of Mindat, Chin State; U Aung Hmi, Lewe Township, Mandalay Division; U Tin Win, Minhla Township, Magwe Division; U Kyaw Nyunt, alias U Nyunt Lwin, of Loikaw Township, Kayah State; U Kyaw Myo Win of Padaung, Pegu Division; U Maung Maung Than of Kyangin, Irrawaddy Division; and U Win Htay Myint of Pa-an, Karen State. The meeting ended at 1420.

The panel discussion by delegates representing technocrats and the intelligentsia was held at 1300 today in Meeting Hall No. 3. U Hla Myint, head of office, chaired the meeting and U Kyaw Sein acted the secretary.

The following delegates discussed the names and arrangements of chapter headings contained in the speech delivered by the alternate chairman at today's plenary session of the National Convention: U Thein Oo Po Saw, nuclear scientist; U Soe Myint, deputy director general; Dr. Mya U, rector; Dr. Ko Lay, director general; U Khin Zaw, movie director; and U Min Naing, painter. The panel adjourned the meeting at 1350 after agreeing to its resumption on 4 March.

The panel discussion by delegates representing public service personnel was held at 1300 today in Meeting Hall No. 2. U Tun Shwe of the Ministry of Labor chaired the meeting and U Hla Win acted as the meeting chairman.

U Kyi Aye of the Ministry of Planning and Finance explained the names and arrangement of chapter headings contained in the alternate chairman's speech at today's plenary session. The meeting ended at 1330 after the panel agreed to resume the meeting on 4 March.

The panel discussion of specially invited delegates was held at 1300 today in Meeting Hall No. 2. U Sa Khung Ting Ring of Kachin State Special Region-1 chaired the meeting and U Thaung Lwin acted as its secretary. The following delegates participated in the discussions on the alternate chairman's speech at today's plenary session: Dr. Maung Maung Sein, advisor to the Ministry of Health; U Ko, retired ambassador; (U Sao Nam), Kachin State Special Region-1; and U Saw Tun Sein, veteran.

The meeting ended at 1340 after the panel agreed to resume the meeting on 4 March.

Paper Slams Foreign 'Meddling'

BK0203123993 Rangoon Radio Burma in English 0710 GMT 2 Mar 93

[Article by Nyan Htet from 2 March WORKING PEOPLE'S DAILY: "Outsiders' Talk Not Worth a Pinch of Salt"]

[Text] There is a comment usually heard from tourists and guests, who arrive for a visit to Myanmar [Burma]. The scenes which we see on arrival in Myanmar are in great contrast to the kind of reports which we heard outside the country. The reports, which we have heard outside, depict Myanmar like some sort of killing field where there is order and anxieties rife all abound. But, when we see it for ourselves, we find that it is a very beautiful country which is extremely peaceful and tranquil. There is a reason why there should be such a wide contrast between outside reports and what can be seen firsthand. This is because there are certain evil influences of the negative intent attached to the foreign news agencies which internationally distribute reports about

Myanmar. Actually, news agency work and news distribution is a propaganda weapon and, as such, those blocs, which can dominate the mass media, has a habit of causing news report to be slanted according to their ideas, [word indistinct] and whims.

There also happens to be one technique of political offensive. Political offensive is essentially the utilization by powerful nations of all methods of propaganda—political, economic, and diplomatic offensives—so as to bring to power in other nations all over the world the kind of governments which can fulfill and promote the welfare of these powerful nations. The desire of these powerful nations is to enable their disciples and faithful followers who are of the same ilk, same belief, and same ideology to come to power in all parts of the world. By doing so, these powerful nations will be able to indirectly extend their influence and authority over the whole world and thence they would be in a position to fulfill and protect their political, economic, and strategic welfare. In this kind of political offensive, they usually strive to discredit those governments which do not accept the authority or else do not have the same belief in the eyes of the people of the country concerned.

What is more, these powerful nations also attempt to get the international community to collectively oppose such nations. In addition, these powerful nations use all kinds of methods and assistance to enable gullible individuals who are likely to do their bidding game, political power, in that country. They also utilize the monopoly of mass media networks to make such individuals internationally well-known and prominent. In so doing, they have encountered many embarrassing reverses because without really understanding the actual situation within the country concerned, they had gone ahead like a bull in a [word indistinct] shop, acting according to their own preconceived and prejudice ideas—the Bay of Pigs fiasco in Cuba 1962, the Vietnam problem from 1960-1975, and the Philippine election force of 1986 are just a few of the cases.

However, in the conditions of new world disorder [as heard] after the balance of power changed following the cold war, we can see that these powerful nations have been taking shelter behind the authority of the United Nations to interfere everywhere to promote their own interests. The truth is that only the people of a country know best the internal conditions within that country. Just as no stranger would be able to know the affairs of a particular family as much as the family members, the quality of the professed goodwill, love, and attachment of an outside stranger would not be superior to the quality of goodwill, love, and attachment which family members have towards one another under any circumstances. By the same token, the claims by foreign countries that they know about Myanmar cannot be true. They cannot, under any circumstances, know as much about Myanmar as the people of Myanmar. Foreigners claim they have much goodwill towards Myanmar. But this foreign goodwill can never ever be equal to the goodwill and love which our national brethren have towards one another. The sleeves of goodwill by foreigners are nothing more than those motivated by self-interest. If their welfare and self-interest are not involved they would not even turn around to look. This was made very clear by the fact that a certain powerful country, which is most enthusiastic in its participation in enforcing the UN resolution in the Gulf war, kept well clear of the Cambodian peace effort being carried out under the aegis of the United Nations. The reason is clear enough. In the Gulf, they have the petroleum companies, but in Cambodia there were only innumerable land mines.

Now too, those foreigners who are interfering in and meddling with all kinds of criticisms against Myanmar are not at all well acquainted with matters which concern Myanmar. Their sole interest is the promotion of their own welfare and, for this reason, they are interfering and meddling in our affairs. And what about those who are called experts on Myanmar affairs. They are nothing more than those who are drawing their own biased conclusions after listening to only the false news and false allegations given to them by destructive elements within Myanmar and their minions. Their views and attitudes towards Myanmar are biased and their conclusions too are invariably contaminated with falsehoods and assessments which can never be correct.

Those Nobel Prize recipients, who recently went to the neighboring country [Thailand], were also biased in their points of view and in what they said about something which they did not know or understand properly. The truth is, only Myanmar people know best about Myanmar. Only Myanmar people have the right to decide the destiny of Myanmar. Only they have the right to choose that Myanmar is only for the Myanmar people; it is not for foreigners. What's more, foreigners don't have the right to interfere, to meddle, or to give orders as to what the Myanmar people should do with Myanmar.

Today, delegates from all classes and strata and organizations of the Myanmar masses, who are most knowledgeable about Myanmar, are collectively exchanging ideas and points of view in wide-ranging discussions at the National Convention. Among them are delegates of the political parties, delegates of representatives-elect, delegates of the nationalities, delegates of the intelligentsia and technocrats, delegates of the peasantry, delegates of the workers, delegates of state service personnel, and other invited delegates, who together represent all classes and all strata. Hence, the viewpoints of these delegates is the reflection of the viewpoints of the people of the entire nation. Hence, all the aspirations of the people will be fulfilled and the welfare of all the nationalities and the nation will be satisfied through the meeting of these distinguished delegates to the National Convention. That is why the National Convention is being held at the expense of a great amount of money of the public budget.

The delegates themselves, as representatives of all classes and strata, are playing a vitally important role. Just as there are politicians among the delegates of the political parties and among the representatives elect, there are also representatives of the respective national races and classes among the nationalities' delegates, the workers' delegates, and the peasants' delegates. Just as personnel from all kinds of departments are included in the state service personnel delegates, so also are there representatives of the intelligentsia and technocrats such as professors; doctors; veterans from the literary world; intelligentsia from the movies, music, and the artistic world; legal experts; technocrats from industries and economic; and, finally, intelligentsia from the fields of arts and science. Among the invited delegates are retired ambassadors, representatives of the nationalities organizations which have sought peace with the government as well as distinguished patriots who have participated in the struggle for independence and members of the intelligentsia.

All together, eight groups are engaging in discussions which are of vital importance to the nation and [words indistinct] would be made known all kinds of viewpoints from all possible angles and all kinds of convictions. Having then submitted the national consolidation and reconstruction on the basis of their respective expertise, the suggestions and proposals made by the intelligentsia and technocrats deserve particular attention. It is seen that all the delegate groups discussed within their respective groups matters concerning the future destiny of the nation with considerable foresight, much attention to detail, as well as due consideration in the combined discussions. Hence, the result which arises out of the National Convention will surely be the most beneficial and the best for the nation and for the people. Since all the delegates to the National Convention have been thus conducting discussions for the emergence of fundamental principles with the overriding aim of ensuring that Myanmar is for the Myanmar people.

There can be no doubt whatsoever that none of these delegates would be desirous of handing over Myanmar to foreigners. Hence, those groups and organizations, who are desirous of using Myanmar to suit their own whims and fancies, are attempting to destrupt the National Convention in all kinds of ways. Whatever may be the case, the people know from bitter historical experiences what kind of destiny would have to be faced if our nation is to be exploited by foreigners. Therefore, the people of this nation should pay particular and emphatic attention to the discussions and proposals being made by the delegates of the National Convention, who are attending to the responsibilities with the best and most genuine interest of the welfare of Myanmar. And at the same time the people of Myanmar should, instead of being swayed by the irrelevancies being propagated by foreign organizations and individuals who not only do not know or understand Myanmar but who also are not desirous for the welfare of Myanmar, should strive to be analytical and thorough in their assessment of what is truth and what is falsehood. [sentence as heard]

Minister Criticize Nobel Laureates' Mission

BK0303031593 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 2 Mar 93

[Text] An opening ceremony for journalism training course no. 3 on news gathering and editing held by the News and Periodicals Enterprise of the Ministry of Information was performed in the morning of 1 March in the News Hall of the Head Office of the News and Periodicals Enterprise on Pansodan Road in Yangon [Rangoon].

Speaking at the opening ceremony, Deputy Information Minister U Soe Nyunt notes the tremendous advance being made in the field of mass media—newspapers, television, and radio— in today's world and the speedy dispatch of news to newspapers, television, and radio by the news agencies.

U Soe Nyunt explained that currently, false allegations against Myanmar [Burma] based on fabricated news from some organizations and individuals as well as distorted news from a group of armed insurgents and destructionists are being broadcasted and disseminated in an unfair manner.

U Soe Nyunt added that on 18 February 1993 a group of so-called Nobel laureates who came through a neighboring country and met with a group of armed insurgents who are opposing Myanmar in a border area, and held talks under the pretext of human rights. It has also been learned that they received submissions made by a handful of insurgents. These acts are not appropriate as this particular group of insurgents does not represent the Myanmar people.

It is not a normal act for the group of Nobel laureates to exaggerate what had been told them by the destructive insurgents and to represent the insurgents in their actions. The destructive acts of the insurgents are known to all. Recently the insurgents brutally killed villagers, including infants, in Pantawi village near Langhko.

U Soe Nyunt explained that journalism courses are being held to produce journalists, the last generation of whom has almost dissapeared. He said the State Law and Order Restoration Council [SLORC] is presently is endeavoring to maintain peace and stability for the general public and prevalence of law and order and to bring about development in agriculture, construction, economy, and social affairs. He said the set goal will be achieved only if efforts are made to uphold the three cardinal causes—nondisintegration of the Union, nondisintegration of national unity, and perpetuation of sovereignty.

The ceremony ended after U Soe Nyunt delivered his address.

The course is being attended by 41 personnel from the departments under the Ministry of Information. The course will last until 7 May.

SLORC Chairman Meets Visiting PRC Group

BK0303144293 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 3 Mar 93

[Text] General Than Shwe, chairman of the State Law and Order Restoration Council [SLORC] of the Union of Myanmar [Burma], received Mr. Cui Naifu, PRC minister of civil affairs, at the Ministry of Defense's Dagon House at 0930 this morning.

Also present at the occasion were SLORC Secretary-1 Major General Khin Nyunt, SLORC Secretary-2 Maj. Gen. Tin U, Foreign Affairs Minister U Ohn Gyaw, Social Welfare, Relief, and Resettlement Minister Brigadier General Thaung Myint, and Thura U Aung Htet, director general of Protocol Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. PRC Ambassador Mr. Liang Feng was also present at the occasion.

PRC Delegation Departs

BK0303144693 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 3 Mar 93

[Text] A five member goodwill delegation from the PRC led by Mr. Cui Naifu, minister of civil affairs, which was in Yangon [Rangoon] at the invitation of Brigadier General Thaung Myint, minister for social welfare, relief, and resettlement, left Yangon by air this afternoon.

The PRC minister and his delegation were seen off at the Yangon Airport by Brig. Gen. Thaung Myint, minister for social welfare, relief, and resettlement, Deputy Minister U Win Naing, PRC Ambassador Mr. Liang Feng, Colonel Than Tin, director general of social welfare department, U Win Lwin, director general of fire services department, U Myint Soe, director of relief and resettlement department, and responsible officials.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Defense Ministry To Study Russia's Jet Offer

BK0403063893 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0600 GMT 4 Mar 93

[Text] The cabinet has directed the Defense Ministry to study the offer made by Russian Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy regarding the sale of fighter jets to Malaysia. Defense Minister Datuk Sri Najib Tun Razak said the directive issued at yesterday's Cabinet meeting was a follow-up to the offer which was regarded as attractive. He, however, felt that more detailed studies were needed before a decision could be made. Speaking to newsmen in Kuala Lumpur, Datuk Sri Najib said the studies would cover the aspects of payment, aircraft handling, and training for pilots.

Mr. Rutskoy, who left yesterday after a three-day visit, had offered the package deal that included discounts of 20 to 30 percent and the local manufacture of aircraft spareparts.

Attorney General: 11 Feb Rulers' Meeting Valid

BK0203140693 Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 27 Feb 93 pp 1,2

[Excerpts] Kuala Lumpur, Fri—Attorney-General Tan Sri Abu Talib Othman said today that the Feb 11 Conference of Rulers is valid.

He said all the Rulers who attended it had unanimously agreed to the joint declaration, signed between the rulers and the government, to remove the personal immunity of the monarchs.

Although the Sultan of Kelantan did not attend the meeting, he had given his proxy to the Sultan of Kedah.

"I am surprised that the Kelantan Sultan is now questioning the validity of the meeting," he said.

The sultan's about-turn came on Wednesday when he repudiated the joint declaration.

He claimed the February 11 Conference of Rulers which endorsed the amendments to the Federal Constitution was null and void. [passage omitted].

Abu Talib said that at the end of the meeting, the Rulers had declared that they agreed and supported the Constitution (Amendment) Bill and the Keeper of the Rulers' Seal had signed the joint declaration.

"The Rulers had understood the contents of the declaration. "Let him (the Kelantan Sultan) be the only one to question the declaration ... maybe he has some political motive," he added.

Meanwhile, several government leaders expressed surprise and regret over the Kelantan Sultan's statement.

Information Minister Datuk Mohamed Rahmat said as far as the Government was concerned, the issue has been settled because the Rulers had agreed to the amendments.

The absence of one Ruler at the meeting did not mean that it was null and void, he said, adding that all the other Rulers attended the meeting, which was called by the rulers themselves.

"All of them agreed to it including the Sultan of Kedah, who was holding the Kelantan Sultan's proxy. Legally, this is binding," he said.

Defence Minister and Umno Youth chief Datuk Seri Najib Tun Abdul Razak said there was sufficient quorum at the meeting and since the meeting was properly called, it was legal.

"The issue raised by the Kelantan Sultan that there was no agenda does not arise," he said.

In Kota Tinggi, Law Minister Datuk Syed Hamid Albar said the Government had obtained through valid legal procedure the consent of the Conference of Rulers for the constitutional amendments.

Therefore, the question of any ruler not agreeing to the amendments was not important, he told reporters.

"The important thing is that it is not a matter of individual rulers having to give their consent but that the government has obtained the consent of the Conference of Rulers," he said.

Syed Hamid said it was not the time now for anyone to question the validity of the constitutional amendments because they had been put through the correct and valid process of law.

"The amendments have gone through Parliament and the Conference of Rulers," he added.

In Kuala Terengganu, Public Enterprises Minister Datuk Dr. Yusof Nor said by declaring the meeting null and void, the Sultan of Kelantan was questioning the integrity of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong [Paramount Ruler) and other Rulers.

Yusof, who is also an Umno [United Malays National Organization] supreme council member, said the sultan was doubting the leadership of the King among the Malay Rulers and his experience and knowledge of matters concerning the Federal Constitution.

"The Sultan of Kelantan is the only ruler who opposes the amendments and changes which have already been endorsed. But I believe the statement made by the Sultan was not his but that of Pas, [Pan-Malaysian Islamic Party]" he said.

Yusof said the sultan's attitude was baffling and he could not believe that the statement was sincerely the ruler's because there was no justification for him to oppose the constitutional amendments.

"It (the statement) can only be the work of Pas. The party has been harping on the issue and has called for many amendments to be made in accordance with Islam. Pas wants things to be run its way and I believe it has been using the sultan to achieve its political goal, he added. [passage omitted].

Speaker Defends Session's Validity

BK0303054693 Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 1 Mar 93 p 1

[Text] Kuala Terengganu, Sun—The Dewan Rakyat [House of Representatives] meeting on Jan 18-19 and the Dewan Negara [Senate] meeting on Jan 20 to vet the Constitution (Amendment) Bill 1993 were valid, Dewan Rakyat Speaker Tan Sri Mohamed Zahir Ismail said today.

"Both meetings went according to procedure and, as such, were valid," he said when contacted by telephone at his daughter's house in Taman Teratai here.

However, he declined further comment on the matter. "I am supposed to be neutral," he said.

Zahir was asked to comment on the statement by the Sultan of Kelantan yesterday who questioned the validity of the meetings of the Dewan Rakyat on Jan 18-19 and the Dewan Negara on Jan 20.

The Sultan of Kelantan, in a letter to Attorney General Tan Sri Abu Talib Othman said any amendments to the Federal Constitution must follow the procedures stipulated in the Constitution.

However, Abu Talib said yesterday the parliamentary meeting which approved the amendment Bill seeking the removal of the personal immunity of the Rulers was valid.

He said the parliamentary meeting was convened in accordance with the provisions of the Standing Orders and that sufficient notice had been given before it was held.

Asked if the modifications to the Bill to be presented to the Dewan Rakyat on March 8 would be presented to the yang di-pertuan agong [paramount ruler] for his assent, Zahir said: "Yes."

"Even if he (the yang di-pertuan agong) does not give his royal assent, the Bill will become law after 30 days from the date Parliament gives its approval," he added.

In Kuala Lumpur, Dewan Rakyat Deputy Speaker Ong Tee Kiat said Parliament had followed all requirements and procedures provided for in the Constitution when holding both the Dewan Rakyat and Dewan Negara meetings.

"The Sultan cannot simply overrule what has already been agreed upon and signed between the attorney general (on behalf of the government) and the Keeper of the Rulers' Seal (for the Conference of Rulers)."

Ong said the Dewan Rakyat meeting starting on March 8 would be held as scheduled, adding that the Sultan of Kelantan could challenge the validity of the session in court.

DAP [Democratic Action Party] Vice Chairman Dr. Tan Seng Giaw said the parliamentary sittings between Jan 18 and 20 were valid because the Conference of Rulers had given its consent to the Bill with some modifications.

"We support the amendments which are constitutional and valid. These include the modified amendments to be debated on March 8 and 9 to ensure that nobody is above the law," he said.

In Kota Baru, Fuad Hassan, the private secretary to the Sultan of Kelantan, reiterated that the Dewan Rakyat meeting on Jan 18-19 was null and void even though the provisions of Parliament's Standing Orders had been observed.

He said the Constitution clearly stated that any attempt to amend provisions in the Constitution which affected the Malay Rulers must first have the consent of the Conference of Rulers.

"How could the Parliament's Standing Orders be more superior than the constitutional requirements?" Fuad said when asked to comment on Attorney General Tan Sri Abu Talib Othman's statement.

Sultan Criticizes Federal Leaders

BK0303121293 Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 2 Mar 93 pp 1,2

[By Shamsul Akmar]

[Excerpt] Kota Baru, Mon.—The sultan of Kelantan said he has been made to look like a villain while federal leaders are made to look like the champions of justice over his statements that the February 11 Conference of Rulers and the January 18 and 19 Dewan Rakyat [House of Representatives] meetings were invalid.

He said he was only sticking to his principles in upholding the law when he questioned the validity of these meetings.

Issuing the statement through his private secretary Fuad Hassan, the sultan claimed that he had no intention of creating any political disturbance in the country when he questioned the validity of the meetings. In fact, the sultan said, he believed that a more turbulent situation could be expected in later stages if he had not brought up the matter now.

He said his actions and statements in questioning the validity of the two meetings were not a joint effort with Semangat '46 [Spirit of 1946 opposition party] President Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah.

The sultan said that it was only natural for him and Razaleigh to speak in "similar tones" over the constitutional amendments because both opposed them.

Since the sultan and Semangat opposed the Constitution [Amendment] Bill 1993 and its objectives, the points raised by both parties tended to have some similarities, Fuad said at a press conference at Istana Balai Besar [Grand Palace] here.

Asked about the relationship between the sultan and Razaleigh, Fuad said the latter is the sultan's uncle by marriage. (Razaleigh is the uncle of the Raja Perempuan [Queen] Tengku Anis Tengku Abdul Hamid). Fuad said even though the sultan was related to Razaleigh, that did not give anybody any right to allege that the sultan acted on the latter's influence. "The sultan has a mind of his own," he added. [passage omitted]

Cambodia

UN Spokesman: Khmer Rouge Attack Stoung

BK0403083493 Hong Kong AFP in English 0825 GMT 4 Mar 93

[Text] Phnom Penh, March 4 (AFP)—Khmer Rouge guerrillas attacked and briefly occupied the Phnom Penh government stronghold of Stoung in central Kompong Thom Province, but withdrew after robbing U.N. peacekeepers' houses there, a U.N. spokesman said Thursday.

The peacekeepers hid in underground bunkers during the attack from 7:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. (0030 GMT to 0730 GMT) on Wednesday, spokesman Eric Falt said.

"All remained in the bunkers while the (Khmer Rouge) carried out heavy shelling of the town and occupied part of it for about two hours," he said.

The guerrillas withdrew after ransacking and looting the U.N. civilian police and electoral houses, he said.

There were reports of civilian casualties, but none of them were among U.N. personnel, Falt said.

Phnom Penh government military spokesman General Phan Thay called it a joint offensive by the Khmer Rouge and the army loyal to the FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] Party of Prince Norodom Sihanouk.

He said 250 guerrillas from the joint forces took over four villages near Stoung on Monday, but that government troops took back two of them in repulsing the attack.

He claimed five Khmer Rouge guerrillas from Division 4 were killed, with no casualties on the government side.

Stoung is located 40 kilometers (25 miles) northwest of the provincial capital of Kompong Thom, and has been the scene of fighting over the last several weeks.

This was the first report reaching Phnom Penh of guerrillas entering the town itself since U.N. peacekeepers arrived in Cambodia. However, 20,000 people were displaced by fighting in the area in January 1992.

The Khmer Rouge have become increasingly bold about stealing U.N. property, frequently taking peacekeepers captive until they agree to hand over their vehicles and radios.

On Tuesday night in a village further west in Siem Reap Province, about 30 gunmen whom villagers identified as Khmer Rouge guerrillas attacked U.N. peacekeepers from Bangladesh, Falt said.

The gunmen fired AK-47s at the Bangladeshi battalion post, from where the U.N. soldiers returned fire.

The guerrillas also broke the windows of U.N. vehicles and robbed six houses before retreating, Falt said.

No injuries were reported.

Paper Urges Quelling 'Anti-Vietnamese Obsession'

BK0403030993 Bangkok THE NATION in English 4 Mar 93 p A6

[Editorial: "Anti-Vietnamese obsession will get Cambodia nowhere"]

[Text] Vietnam gained international credibility by withdrawing its troops from Cambodia in September 1989 and supporting the October 1991 United Nations-sponsored Peace Accords for the war-torn country.

But after the signing of the Cambodian peace agreement, the guerrillas fighting the Phnom Penh government have claimed that Vietnam left behind thousands of soldiers when it ended its 11-year occupation of the country.

The Maoist Khmer Rouge faction has refused to disarm its active combatants in accordance with the UN-sponsored peace agreement and has accused the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (Untac) of siding with Phnom Penh and turning a blind eye to Vietnamese troops still present in the country.

Up till this week, the United Nations had not produced any evidence of there being any Vietnamese soldiers still in Cambodia. Untac had been asking the guerrilla groups to come up with hard evidence that UN investigators could follow up on and the guerrillas had not done so. Instead, they have repeated in robotic style how Untac will never be able to guarantee a free and fair general election scheduled in May, with Vietnamese soldiers still in Cambodia.

The United Nations on Monday announced that it had found, on its own, Vietnamese troops in the heart of Cambodia. This on one hand confirms what the guerrillas had been saying all along. However, it also demonstrates that the United Nations has taken the guerrillas' allegations seriously enough to launch a thorough investigation.

The discovery of the three Vietnamese deemed by the United Nations to be foreign forces will therefore refute what the Khmer Rouge has been saying all the while—that Untac is favouring the Vietnamese and going easy on the Phnom Penh government.

The reaction by the Khmer Rouge should be easy enough to predict. In their next clandestine radio broadcast, they will be using the "I told you so" line and at the same time claim that every single Vietnamese man, woman and child settler in Cambodia is part Hanoi's grand design to swallow the country. All Vietnamese men in the country, whether fishermen, farmers or construction labourers will be accused by the Khmer Rouge of being soldiers in disguise.

Stirring up racial hatred against the Vietnamese has become the Khmer Rouge's main political rallying point and one which strikes a chord with ordinary Cambodians. The Vietnamese have become model scapegoats, explaining all the evils which have struck, are striking or will strike the Cambodians.

Untac will also use Monday's revelation to put forward the message that the United Nations will do whatever it can to look for Vietnamese soldiers on Cambodian soil. Untac will also say if any of the guerrilla factions wants to continue to make allegations, the peacekeepers will be willing to follow-up on any leads, provided that adequate evidence is furnished. After all, they will add, part of the United Nations mandate, set out in the October 1991 peace accords, includes verifying that all foreign troops have left Cambodia.

Untac now is urging the Phnom Penh government to discharge the two Vietnamese still serving in its military and withdraw the identity cards that the Cambodian government had issued to all three. The third man, a Vietnamese lieutenant discharged in 1985, is living the life of a civilian in Kratie.

Also, as expected, Vietnam reacted strongly against Untac's suggestion that the three be sent back and a statement released by Hanoi yesterday said the men, identified by the United Nations as former Vietnamese soldiers, don't fall into the category of foreign soldiers because they're "not commanded or controlled by a foreign government." Hanoi said the three had married Cambodian women and hence had taken on their wives' nationality.

"They have become Cambodians of Vietnamese origin and the Vietnamese state has no authority whatsoever over them," added the statement.

Whatever transpires as a result of Monday's events, let it not be forgotten that many Vietnamese soldiers who served in Cambodia between 1979 and 1989 either defected or simply left the military to stay behind in Cambodia and build new lives.

An anti-Vietnamese preoccupation has been the central theme of many declarations, arguments and even diplomatic initiatives relating to Cambodia.

Considerations about the future of Cambodia are reduced to the anti-Vietnamese obsession alone, and the Cambodians have subordinated all other questions, even the most vital ones to this.

The uneasiness is due to the fact that those who call for reason and moderation in settling this issue are indeed rare. When chaos sets in over the anti-Vietnamese stance, it will be the Khmer Rouge who will gain in the end.

UNTAC Disclosure of SRV Troops 'Propaganda'

BK0403040393 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 3 Mar 93

["Statement by Democratic Kampuchea spokesman on UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia statement on finding three Yuon Aggressors in Cambodia;" dated 2 March—read by announcer]

[Text] On 1 March UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] announced that it uncovered three Yuon [derogatory term for Vietnamese] aggressors among the Phnom Penh puppets. Concerning this news, the spokesman of the Party of Democratic Kampuchea [PDK] would like to provide the following clarification:

I. The announcement by UNTAC is more untrustworthy propaganda to deceive local and foreign opinion into believing that UNTAC has been making efforts to find Yuon aggressor forces in Cambodia.

II. The truth is that UNTAC has not changed its policy of supporting the Yuon aggressors and puppets propped up by the Yuon since 1979. It is not that UNTAC leaders do not know that Yuon aggressors continue their aggression and occupation in Cambodia.

Sixteen months after signing the Paris agreement, the Yuon are still committing aggression against and occupying Cambodia through their puppet regime in Phnom Penh and through their systematic networks from top to bottom. General opinion clearly realizes that in Cambodia presently there are all types of Yuon aggressor forces:

1. Over 40,000 Yuon forces, in the form of soldiers and officers, are hiding among the puppet troops, police, and various puppet ministries, particularly in the five major ministries.

2. Over 2 million Yuon settlers, including over 1.3 million who have been issued Cambodian identity cards by the Yuon and their puppets and already registered for elections by UNTAC. These Yuon settlers have been systematically set up; they are armed and are members of the Communist Party of Vietnam and of the communist Yuon's youth league, farmers, trade unions, and so on.

Apart from this, there are also Yuon officers and troops disguised among Yuon civilians. It is not that UNTAC leaders do knot know that the Yuon aggressors are implementing a policy of commiting aggression and occupying Cambodia through the influx of Yuon nationals to annex the territory and the Cambodian people and exterminate the Cambodian race. The Yuon plan to annex Cambodia in the form of a war and the influx of Yuon nationals to annex the Cambodian people is obvious.

III. From the beginning, the PDK, like other Cambodian national resistance forces, has successively drawn the attention of UNTAC and the UN Security Council to and made them responsible for the real situation in which the Yuon continue to commit aggression and occupy Cambodia. It has again and again demanded that UNTAC correctly implement the Paris agreement, particularly the following key points:

1. The SNC has rights and powers as the legitimate and sole source of power in Cambodia during the transitional period;

2. UNTAC and the SNC cooperate in verifying that all types of Yuon aggressor forces are withdrawn from Cambodia; and

3. UNTAC and the SNC cooperate in controlling the five ministries.

The situation during the past 16 months has confirmed that the position of the PDK is correct. Opinions of the Cambodian nation and people in and outside the country agree with the PDK and support their stance. The Cambodian nation and people and the Cambodian national resistance forces demand that the UNTAC leader recognize this truth and take the necessary measures to verify that all types of Yuon aggressor forces are withdrawn from Cambodia.

Only when all Yuon aggressor forces are withdrawn from Cambodia can a neutral political atmosphere be established for holding free, democratic, just, and fair elections, and through this, ensure that Cambodia genuinely recover peace, independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity.

IV. However, over the past 16 months the situation has confirmed that UNTAC leaders have not verified that Yuon aggressor forces have withdrawn from Cambodia. This is the key to ending the Yuon's war of aggression. On the contrary, UNTAC leaders have closed their eyes and ears and pretented not to know about the old Yuon aggressor forces in Cambodia and about the new Yuon forces flowing into the country. Instead they have only tried to find pretexts to destroy Democratic Kampuchea. This is because they have made an alliance with the Yuon and allowed them to control and occupy Cambodia at will. This is why they have not implemented the 23 October 1991 Paris agreement. They have delayed dispatching UN peacekeeping forces to Cambodia and have allowed the Yuon to attack the resistance forces for the entire 14th dry season; and have pressured Democratic Kampuchea into entering the second phase of the cease- fire without verifying that Yuon aggressor forces are out of Cambodia. They have only thought about organizing elections in a situation in which there is no security and no neutral political atmosphere and in which the Yuon and their puppets are intensifying political terrorist activities to murder people and members of various political parties at will.

V. The Cambodian nation and people and the Cambodian national resistance forces absolutely refuse to be killed at will and refuse to let the Cambodian people be tied up and to allow the Yuon to annex and exterminate the Cambodian race like they did in Kampuchea Kraom [former Cambodian territory now part of southern Vietnam].

UNTAC leaders should change their policy and stop colluding with the Yuon and their puppets and instead turn to correcty implementing every clause of the 23 October 1991 Paris agreement.

[Dated] 2 March
[Signed] PDK Spokesman

Radio Details Sihanouk Reconciliation Plan

BK0403033693 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 3 Mar 93

[Text] On 1 March, Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and chairman of the Supreme National Council [SNC], issued a new statement concerning the establishment of a provisional national reconciliation government and a united national Army. Following is the essence of the prince's statement:

I recently developed a plan to save Cambodia and the Cambodian people and to guard against a serious crisis leading to a new war in Cambodia following UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia]-organized elections in May 1993, and at the end of the UNTAC mission on 25 August 1993.

The following is the essence of my plan:

1. Convene an inter-Cambodian summit at the royal palace under my chairmanship attended by leaders of the major Cambodian parties, such as FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia], the Party of Democratic Kampuchea, the Khmer People's National Liberation Front, and the Phnom Penh side.

2. Set up a provisional national reconciliation government with me as head with the participation of the above four major Cambodian parties, and a united national Army with me as commander comprising the armies of the four major parties.

3. Prevent a civil war, restore peace and national union, and hold new general elections throughout Cambodia including the zones of Democratic Kampuchea.

Acting this way will prevent Cambodia's partition and ensures a new assembly, which is a genuine assembly of the people and the entire Cambodian nation. The new general elections should be organized and controlled by the provisional national reconciliation government. The voters include Cambodian people in and outside the country and in Kampuchea Kraom [former Cambodian territory now in south Vietnam] who have reached voting age. Foreigners disguised as Cambodians will not be allowed to vote.

I am happy to reaffirm that:

1. I respect and abide by the 23 October 1991 Paris agreement in its letter and spirit until the end, that is until the end of the UNTAC mission on 25 August 1993.

2. After 25 August 1993, Cambodia should stop being under the control of the United Nations and the five major powers and their additional members. Cambodia should then have its full sovereignty returned, meaning that foreign interference in Cambodia's internal affairs is not acceptable. Cambodia's internal affairs should be left to Cambodians to solve among themselves. Cambodia should be a sovereign country with a multiparty political system, freedom of the press, and full respect for human rights.

I would like to solemnly declare that foreigners and Cambodians who criticize my plan should be fully responsible to history and to the Cambodian nation and people for the serious danger which could take place in Cambodia following the UNTAC-organized elections in May and following the end of the UNTAC mission in Cambodia on 25 August.

Khieu Samphan, Son Sen Support Plan

BK0403010493 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 3 Mar 93

["Message from Their Excellencies Khieu Samphan and Son Sen to Prince Norodom Sihanouk, chairman of the Supreme National Council"; dated 2 March—read by announcer]

[Text] To Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and chairman of the Supreme National Council [SNC]:

Respected Prince: We would like to fully support your 1 March statement. We firmly believe that the entire Cambodian nation and people support you. No one can deny your most important role at present and in the future.

We would like to respectfully suggest that you take this opportunity to have a medical checkup and to improve your health.

Please accept our most profound sentiments of respect and love.

[Dated] Cambodia, 2 March

[Signed] Khieu Samphan, chairman of the Party of Democratic Kampuchea [PDK] and SNC member

Son Sen, vice chairman of the PDK, commander in chief of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea, and SNC member

Hun Sen Visits Kampot Province 26 Feb-1 Mar

BK0203080393 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 2 Mar 93

[Text] From 26 February to 1 March, a high-level delegation of the party and government of the State of Cambodia [SOC] led by His Excellency [H.E.] Hun Sen, vice chairman of the Cambodian People's Party [CPP] and chairman of the SOC Council of Ministers, went to see the officials and personages in the administrative circles, educational officials and personnel, and representatives of people in Kampot Province in order to seek information about the current socioeconomic situation and people's living conditions.

Accompanying H.E. Hun Sen on that occasion were Ney Pena, member of the CPP Central Committee Standing Committee and vice chairman of the CPP Central Committee's Control Commission; Nhim Vanda, member of the CPP Central Committee and trade minister; Lieutenant General Chay Sangyun, member of the CPP Central Committee and deputy defense minister; Cheam Yiep, member of the CPP Central Committee and director general of Cambodian tourism; Em Sam-an, member of the CPP Central Committee and director general of SPK; Khun Chhi, minister of the Council of Ministers Office in charge of communications, transport, and posts; and many other deputy ministers and leading officials of various ministries, departments, and institutions.

Upon arrival, the high-level delegation of SOC party and government was accorded a warm welcome by Tit Ream, member of the CPP Central Committee and chairman of Kampot Province's party committee and people's committee, and administrative officials and personages from all eight districts of the province.

During the get-together, the delegation listened to reports by provincial and district authorities and representatives of people in various communes dealing with the current socioeconomic situation and people's proper living conditions under the correct leadership of the party and local authorities. Each report stressed that although many localities have been faced with floods and drought in the past year, thanks to the assistance of the SOC party and government and international humanitarian organizations and the people's own efforts, the rice yield collected early this year was good enough to serve our day to day needs.

H.E. Hun Sen also received the people's requests proposing building of public facilities, such as schools and temples.

Speaking to people, teachers, officials, and personnel there, H.E. Hun Sen pointed out the all-around development and achievements scored by the party and all people in the past over 14 years. He also sincerely commended the people and teachers in the whole province for their feats and achievements in socioeconomic construction. He stressed that for the well-being of the people, the SOC government is currently implementing an economic stabilization policy to check inflation and maintain the value of riel currency by maintaining a balance between income and expenses. His excellency also exhorted all teachers to increase their professional competence in order to provide good education for Cambodian children. In addition, he called on the people to speed up production so as to improve their living conditions.

On the evening of 27 February, H.E. Hun Sen met and had a cordial conversation with UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia [UNTAC] officials in Kampot Province headed by (Ibrahim Soriya), deputy head of UNTAC administration in Kampot Province. This meeting is clear evidence of the CPP and SOC government's attention in providing facilities for UNTAC [words indistinct] in order to safeguard a neutral political atmosphere in Cambodia.

Indonesia

Parliamentarians Criticize Singapore Air Accord

BK2702055693 Jakarta THE INDONESIA TIMES in English 13 Feb 93 p 2

[Editorial: "Air Services Agreement With Singapore"]

[Text] The air agreement between Indonesian and Singapore civil aviation authorities is drawing sharp criticism from some members in the House of Representatives here who argue that it gives Singapore Airlines a larger advantage than our own Garuda. House members are calling for a complete review of the existing agreement, known as the air services memorandum of understanding.

One of the provisions of the memorandum that House members want the government to withdraw pertains to the type of wide-bodied aircraft which the respective national airlines could use to fly between Singapore and Jakarta. They were unhappy because Singapore Airlines have operated different versions of the Boeing 747 aircraft on this lucrative route.

They charged that with its higher-capacity and longer-haul that Boeing jumbos were giving Singapore Airlines a substantive edge over Garuda, which operated only smaller-capacity Airbuses on the Jakarta-Singapore route. In addition, the House members were criticising Singapore's use of B-747s from Jakarta for immediate onward flights to Europe, America and other regional destinations.

Other sections in the arrangement that the parliamentarians disapproved of were the number of Singapore Airlines destinations in Indonesia and overflying of Indonesian air space enroute to Australia, something which Garuda does not get or need. But for obvious reasons the Indonesian authorities do not share their criticism.

The memorandum, first sgined in 1990 by Indonesian civil aviation authorities and their Singapore counterparts, was last amended in January last year. The amendment authorises Singapore Airlines to operate B-747-300 or B-747-200s on one of its eight daily flights to Jakarta from Singapore starting next April.

Garuda could operate the same number of B-747 services on its Jakarta-Singapore run. However, this would become meaningless if Garuda is unable to fill up its carriers on the route.

The controversy, thus, is actually on how one defies a fair arrangement between two parties. Could it be limited to types of aircraft and number of flights or should it also include number of passengers?

If our parliamentarians were aiming for fairness in business output as well, then this would be tantamount to asking for a cooperative scheme between two competing enterprises. A lofty idea, but maybe a bit too early for its time.

Paper Views PNG Premier's Visit to Indonesia

BK2802084893 Jakarta THE INDONESIA TIMES in English 15 Feb 93 p 2

[Editorial: "Indonesia-PNG Relations"]

[Text] Papua New Guinean Prime Minister Paias Wingti's recent visit to this country was most welcome and one that should herald a new phase in efforts to further strengthen Indonesia-PNG relations. The fact that he brought seven ministers and more than one hundred businessmen to accompany him certainly reflected a serious endeavour on his part to expand economic cooperation between PNG and this country.

It is not by accident that Premier Wingti was a key figure behind the signing of the Treaty of Mutual Respect, Friendship and Cooperation between Indonesia and PNG in 1986. This protocol binds the two countries to the principle of peaceful settlement of all bilateral problems, the common border issues doubtless taking a priority position in the common list.

As President Suharto has pointed out, progress has been achieved after the two countries signed the accord on border agreements. Resolution of border problems must remain a top priority concern and for Indonesia in particular they must be handled properly to prevent any disharmony in the relationship between the two sovereign states.

There is no denying that the constraint to achieve further constructive steps are immense, corresponding with the different political and economic experience and development of the two countries. One must add to the list the geographical characteristics that are common to both but the same time underscore the overwhelming challenges faced by their governments and peoples.

For example, Indonesia and the PNG are geographically vast and relatively new states such that political, economic social and other exchanges have remained minimal between them. The fact that economic development in the eastern part of Indonesia, specifically Irian Jaya that lies immediately next to the PNG, is behind the western region certainly makes any rapid enhancement of bilateral cooperation difficult.

Still, all these handicaps in efforts to expand relations between what is certain to become a very important strategic partnership in the Asia-Pacific region should be overcome. The more so since Indonesia is a part of ASEAN and the PNG is an eminent member of the South Pacific Forum.

Moreover, constructive relations between Indonesia, currently chairman of the Non-Aligned Movement, and the PNG could become an examplary showcase of the South-South cooperation. In sum, every path and effort towards further progress in bilateral ties must be pursued by both the public and private sectors in the two countries.

Laos

President Receives Vietnamese Party Delegation

BK0303020893 Vientiane KPL in English 0905 GMT 2 Feb 93

[Text] Vientiane, Mar 2 (KPL)—Mr. Nouhak Phoumsavan, president of the Lao PDR [Lao People's Democratic Republic] received here on March 1 Mr. Le Phuoc Tho, head of the Organizational Board of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee who arrived here to attend the funeral of the Mr. Sisomphon Lovansai, former Politburo member of the LPRP CC [Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee], vice-president of the People's Supreme Assembly and advisor to the LPRP CC. The funeral was held here in the afternoon of March 1.

President Nouhak Phoumsavan expressed thanks to the Vietnamese guests for their participation at the funeral, which in itself, demonstrated the long standing special solidarity and all-round cooperation between th parties, states and people of the two countries—Laos and Vietnam—which have been firmly strengthened.

Also in the morning of the same day, Mr. Le Phuoc Tho and his delegation were received by the Lao Prime Minister Mr. Khamtai Siphandon.

Leaders, Guests Attend Cremation of Sisomphon

BK0303040293 Vientiane KPL in English 0858 GMT 2 Mar 93

[Excerpts] Vientiane, Mar 2 (KPL)—The body of the late advisor to the LPRP CC [Lao People's Revolutionary

Party Central Committee], former Politburo member of the party CC, vice president of the People's Supreme Assembly Mr. Sisomphon Lovansai was cremated last night at the That Louang square. Mr. Sisomphon Lovansai passed away in Vientiane on February 24 at the age of 77.

Yesterday morning, religious rite was performed in the memory of the late revolutionary. This was followed by a ceremony to pay the last respect of the party CC to Mr. Sisomphon Lovansai. Among the mourners were Mr. Khamtai Siphandon, president of the Executive Committee of the party CC, prime minister, Mr. Nouhak Phoumsavan, Politburo member of the party CC, president of the republic, Mr. Saman Vi-gnaket, Politburo member of the party CC, president of the National Assembly. Also present were other members of the Political Bureau, members of the party Central Committee, advisors to the party CC and dignitaries, representatives of the various social strata.

Also present were the delegation of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] CC led by Mr. Le Phuoc Tho, Politburo member of the CPV CC, members of the diplomatic corps, representatives of the international organisations in Laos.

In the eulogy read out by Mr. Saman Vi-gnaket, head of the funeral committee for Mr. Sisomphon Lovansai, speaking on behalf of the party CC, the National Assembly, the government, the Lao Front for National Construction, referred to the death as a great loss to the nation. He was called a tireless revolutionary fighter. He was loyal to the party's cause, the nation and people. [passage omitted]

At 15.00 hrs. of yesterday, mourners laid joss-sticks, flowers on the pyre. The actual cremation took place in the evening of yesterday at 19.00 hrs.

SRV Delegation Leaves for Home

BK0203135493 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 2 Mar 93

[Text] On the morning of 1 March, Comrade Khamtai Siphandon, chairman of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party [LPRP] Central Committee and prime minister of the government, received our Party Central Committee delegation led by Comrade Le Phuoc Tho, Political Bureau member, secretary of the Party Central Committee, and head of the Party Central Committee Organization Department, which was in Vientiane to attend the funeral of Comrade Sisomphon Lovansai.

In the same afternoon, Comrade Nouhak Phoumsavan, member of the LPRP Central Committee Political Bureau and president of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR], received Comrade Le Phuoc Tho and his entourage. Comrade Le Phuoc Tho conveyed the condolences of Comrade Do Muoi, our party's general secretary; Comrade Le Duc Anh, president of the state; Comrade Vo Van Kiet, prime minister of the government; and other leading Vietnamese party and state leaders to the comrade Lao party, state, and National Assembly leaders as well as to the Lao people over the demise of Comrade Sisomphon Lovansai.

Comrade Khamtai Siphandon and Comrade Nouhak Phoumsavan thanked the Vietnamese party and state for sending a high-level delegation to Vientiane to attend the funeral of Comrade Sisomphon Lovansai, regarding this move as a manifestation of the fine tradition of sharing weal and woe and of the special friendship between the two parties and states. The Lao party and state leaders expressed their joy at the fine results brought about by the friendly and cooperative ties between the two countries. They expressed the belief that the special friendship and comprehensive cooperation between Laos and Vietnam would continue to develop and bring about higher results in the days to come.

Previously, on the afternoon of 28 February, Comrade Saman Vi-gnaket, member of the LPRP Central Committee Political Bureau and president of the Supreme People's Assembly, received our party delegation. Comrade Le Phuoc Tho and his entourage also attended the memorial services for and cremation of Comrade Sisomphon Lovansai.

This morning, our Party Central Committee delegation left Vientiane for home.

Premier Issues Rice Production Instruction

BK0403100593 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1400 GMT 1 Mar 93

[Text] On 27 February, Prime Minister Khamtai Siphandon issued an instruction on the annual rice crop production. The instruction is addressed to ministers, heads of ministerial level organizations, provincial governors, and governor of Vientian Municipality.

The instruction says: The agricultural production in our country relys mainly on nature and it is affected by droughts and floods nearly every year. Last year, the climate in the central and southern regions of the country was fairly normal with sufficient rainfall for satisfactory agricultural production. Meanwhile, some parts in the northern region were hit by drought at the beginning of the rainy season, and so paddy transplanting had to be postponed to the middle of the season. The delay in rainfall at the end of the season and the winter winds while the rice was about to bear grain caused considerable damage to both highland and lowland paddy fields in Louang Namtha, Luang Prabang, Oudomsaid, Houa Phan, Xieng Khouang, the northern part of Vientiane Province. We can see that the grain production in some areas was plentiful while others suffered rice shortages.

The agencies concerned and the multiethnic farmers have exerted their efforts in different ways and means to boost agricultural production to compensate for the damage caused by these natural disasters. For examples, they planted dry-season rice and other cash crops. However, we still have several shortcomings to overcome. We have failed to effectively implement the anti-drought and anti-flood plans to guarantee production stability. We do not have any highly effective measures to curb slash-and-burn cultivation. The statistics show that the areas under the slash-and-burn cultivating areas have decreased. But the actual destruction of forest for cultivation can be seen in many areas. The campaign to encourage farmers to shift from slash-and-burn cultivation to other occupations has not been distinctively successful. The movement to transfer land and forested areas to people for their management and production is still inoperative. Economic sectors have not yet participated in the agricultrual production. The services and sectors concerned have not yet attentatively participated in the elimination [Loplang] of agricultural production [as heard]. Coordination among agencies concerned is not well organized. The guidance and advice of various agencies in the localities lack uniformity. Lessons learned from the model farming families have not be propagated extensively.

Aiming for favorable agricultural production in 1993, the prime minister has issued the following instruction:

1. Based on the resolution adopted by the sixth planary session of the fifth Party Central Committee on agriculture and forestry, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry will act as the coordination center for agencies and localities in a bid to achieve a 5 percent increase in agricultural and forestry production in 1993. Rice production is targeted at 1.6 million tons. The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry is instructed to draw up production plans for provinces and major rice cultivating zones and suitable measures to guarantee the achievement of the targeted figures.

2. Due to the unusual changes in last year's climate and the possible recurrence of drought in some areas during the transplanting period, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and provincial and district administrations are instructed to draw up comprehensive measures to limit damage to crops. They must dispatch to people at villages techincal cadres who will advise and organize the people to solve the immediate problems in each area through activities such as digging water wells, water ponds, and artesian wells, dredging streams and canals, repairing irrigation systems, and installing water pumps so as to minimize the effects of drought.

3. To reduce the slash-and-burn cultivation, the administrations of localities are instructed to educate the people and advise them to shift to fixed rice cultivation on a voluntary basis. Clearing land for cultivation is prohibited in rain forests, watershed areas, and reserved forests. The people must be encouraged to plant a variety of crops and engage in animal husbandry. Two-way services must be set up in each village or clusters of villages to purchase crop products and sell consumer goods to farmers. This is one way to reduce and eventually eliminate slash-and-burn cultivation in the mountainous region.

4. The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry is instructed to put into practice its past experience in setting up intensive agriculture model families, promoting the cultivation of cash crops and animal husbandry, and encouraging farmers to shift from slash-and-burn cultivation to fixed rice cropping.

5. The Bank of the Lao People's Democratic Republic is obligued to encourage its branch offices in provinces and districts to provide low-interest loans with reasonable repayment terms for farmers to boost crop production in a timely manner. The establishment of a bank for agriculture must be expedited to secure funds for production and to upgrade the rural people's livelihood.

6. The Finance Ministry in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry is instructed to prepare for the setting up of an emergency stockpile to serve the construction and restoration of irrigation facilities in cases of drought and flood. Crop seeds, vaccines, fertilizer, pesticide, and so on must be procured. At the same time, the ministry must accelerate the payment of the funds which were earlier approved to finance the related undertakings.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry is assigned to organize the propagation and implementation of this instruction and submit periodical reports on its results to the government through the normal channel.

Border Cooperation Committee Meets Thai Side

BK0303105693 Vientiane KPL in English 0916 GMT 3 Mar 93

[Text] Vientiane, March 3 (KPL)—The local-level cooperation committees for border security of the Lao Province of Vientiane and Thai Province of Loei had last week met in Vientiane Province to discuss ways of cooperation to prevent undesirable events along the common border between the two provinces.

The meeting was co-chaired by Col. Boun-hing Phoummachan, chief of security police of Vientiane Province and Mr. Somsamai Naphuangchan, dputy governor of Loei Province. Also present at the meeting was Col. Phommachak Soutthisan, member of the Lao-Thai cooperation committee for border security.

The sides exchanged views on a series of issues concerning the prevention of undesirable incidents which often occur along the border between the Lao Province of Vientiane and the Thai Province of Loei. They unanimously agreed to implement measures to maintain security in their respective jursidiction along the common border and to prevent all acts that will undermine the neighbourly relations of friendship between Laos and Thailand.

Earlier, similar meetings of the local-level cooperation committee for border securities were held between the Lao Province of Khammouane and the Thai Provice of Nakhon Phanom, and between the Lao Province of Bolikhamsai and the Thai Province of Nong Khai.

Phoun Sipaseut Receives UNFPA Executive Director

BK0303035893 Vientiane KPL in English 0908 GMT 2 Mar 93

[Text] Vientiane, Mar 2 (KPL)—Vice Prime Minister Phoun Sipaseut, who is also in charge of foreign relations affairs, yesterday received Dr. Nafis Sadik, executive director of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) who is visiting Lao PDR [Lao People's Democratic Republic] from Feb. 28 to March 2.

The vice-prime minister and the UNFPA executive director discussed cooperation and assistance between the Lao Government and UNFPA, especially the UNFPA assistance in collecting and analysing demographic data.

Phoun Sipaseut appreciated the visit of the UNFPA executive director and thanked for the UNFPA's assistance in the area.

During her visit to the Lao PDR, Dr. Sadik will pay courtesy calls on Nouhak Phoumsavan, the president of the Lao PDR, and other top-level government dignitaries.

She will also visit Mahosot and Setthathilat hospitals where UNFPA-supported birth-spacing programmes are already being piloted. Under the new programme of assistance to Laos, UNFPA will work to strengthen the country's capacity to collect and analyse demogaphic data which is essential for the design of effective health and development policies and programmes. UNFPA will assist the government in providing birth-spacing services and information, and promote safe mother by training staff of the institute of mother and child health at both central and provincial levels.

UNFPA has already given significant assistance to Laos under its regional programme by supporting the first census ever conducted in the country in 1985. It also helped upgrade the capacity of the state statistics centre and the performance of village chiefs in their role (?in) civil registrars.

Now, under the new country programme, UNFPA will assist the government in reaching its goal of reducing maternal, infant and child mortality by 25 per cent by the year 2000, and continue to help improve socioeconomic planning and the development of health services in the Lao PDR.

Before her departure on March 2, Dr. Sadik will inaugurate the new UNFPA office in Vientiane and oversee the start of the first UNFPA five year country programme for the Lao PDR.

Philippines

Military To Take More Active UN, ASEAN Role

HK0403051093 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English 4 Mar 93 p 16

[Report by Wilfredo G. Reyes]

[Text] Armed Forces [of the Philippines] (AFP) strategists, who are currently defining the military's role for this decade, foresee a continuing internal security role and stepped-up commitments to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the United Nations.

A national security source told Business World these strategists have not discounted the AFP's fulfillment of internal security functions in anticipation of the possible persistence of serious internal security problems within the near future.

This runs contrary to earlier reports the Philippine National Police (PNP) would be able to assume all counterinsurgency and other internal security duties from the military by the end of this year, thus allowing the military to focus exclusively on conventional external defense concerns.

"Two of the seven major roles these strategists foresee for the AFP for the 1990's are provision of continuing support for the PNP and providing adequate response to aggravated internal situations," the source said.

Currently, the PNP's internal problems have both delayed the transfer of counterinsurgency functions to the military and required active AFP support even for the government's anti-criminality campaign, especially against kidnap-for-ransom groups.

President Ramos himself had earlier ordered the military to step into the government's anti-criminality campaign function, prompting AFP chief Gen. Lisandro Abadia to create Task Force Hammerhead for this particular purpose. The 2,000-man AFP Counterintelligence Group forms the core of this group, which can draw support from the Intelligence Services of the AFP, the Marines, Scout Ranger and Special Forces regiments.

The same source added there were three other interrelated roles in military strategists' minds, namely garrison duty, disaster and rehabilitation missions, and support for national development.

"We will soon be trimming down military manpower to the minimum required level to develop the AFP into a small corps of military professionals," the source explained. "This includes the reported downgrading of troop deployment in the countryside from brigade-sized (900 to 1,500 men) to company-sized formations (100 men).

"But while these professional corps undergo garrison duty, meaning training and maneuvers, they have to be able to contribute to the government's development plans, apart from their continued participation in disaster relief and rehabilitation operations. That's why we will also be converting a number of combat formations into engineering units."

The military also plans to intensify military cooperation with counterparts within the ASEAN and commitments to UN peacekeeping military relations would probably be limited to intensified institutional and personal contacts through exchange visits and training.

"We're seeing these things now. In fact, the recent visits of Indonesian Defense Minister Leonardus Murdani and Malaysian Defense Minister Tan Sri Yacob would have been impossible 15 years ago," the source remarked.

"We're also emphasizing joint maneuvers and interoperability, so that when our (ASEAN) forces meet in a foreign country to fulfill UN peacekeeping functions, they would have had similar experiences and training to facilitate actual joint operations.

"However, I don't think our strategists see this kind of cooperation elevating to the level of joint arms production and complementarity. I think we are still wary of taking any step that could lead to a formalized military alliance within ASEAN."

Finally, the source said AFP planners are currently figuring out ways of responding to the country's dire external defense requirements, especially after the decommissioning of most of the AFP's air and naval assets. "We need to develop a defense capability that will be enough to signal potential aggressors that we can protect and secure our territorial boundaries, waters, and sea lines of communication," the source said.

The official added that Government could program arms and systems procurement over a period in order to defray rising expenses of state-of-the-art equipment.

Ramos Rejects Settlement Offer From Westinghouse

HK0403044293 Manila MANILA STANDARD in English 4 Mar 93 p 2

[Report by Marichu A. Villanueva]

[Text] President Ramos has rejected last-ditch efforts of Westinghouse lawyers to settle out-of-court on "non-nuclear basis" the $26.5 million bribery suit the Philippine government filed against the contractor of the mothballed Bataan Nuclear Power Plant (BNPP). The case is now scheduled on March 15 for the grand jury trial at the New Jersey Federal District Court.

Based on this decision of the President, the Philippine panel yesterday reported at the Palace that government hired lawyers will establish that Westinghouse and Burns and Roe Co. conspired to hire crony-businessman Herminio Desini as "conduit to funnel tens of millions of dollars in payment for the benefit" of the then President Marcos.

Former Senator Vicente Paterno, chairman of the Philippine panel that negotiated with Westinghouse on the preliminary out-of-court settlement, informed the President of the results of the latest instructions from Judge Dickinson Deveboise on the litigation of the Philippine bribery suit against Westinghouse.

In a news briefing, Paterno disclosed that he along with Meneleo Carlos Jr. chairman of the Council of Advisers on Energy Affairs met with Westinghouse lawyers last Feb. 23 for one-day negotiations "under the auspices of the court" to make a last attempt to settle out of court the bribery suit.

Paterno said Westinghouse tried to pursue a "non-nuclear settlement" basis of the suit wherein Westinghouse offered to pay in cash and other fringe benefits without operating the BNPP.

It will be recalled that the Ramos government last November rejected the preliminary compromise agreement with Westinghouse after Paterno's panel found no substantial improvements of offer of Westinghouse to operate economically the 600-megawatt nuclear plant located in Morong, Bataan.

Paterno, however, noted that even the "non-nuclear settlement" offer of Westinghouse proved unattractice to them and so the panel recommended to the President to reject the latest Westinghouse offer.

"So, the decision is to proceed with the litigation which will start on March 15," Paterno said.

"We have every confidence that justice will be done and the jury will find in our favor," Paterno said.

Paterno estimated that the trial will only take about one to two months and a decision will be made by that time.

In the meantime that the trial is on going, Energy Secretary Delfin Lazaro said the BNPP which was supposed to be operated by the National Power Corp. (NAPOCOR) has piled up todate a total of $2.78 billion in preservation and maintenance costs, debt-servicing and other costs related to the BNPP.

Lazaro said Napocor cannot do something to use the mothballed plant and convert this to coal-fired plant as proposed because of the pending arbitration case also against Westinghouse before the Geneva courts.

In the Geneva case, the Philippine government charged Westinghouse of the alleged "defects" of the reactor installed by the company and is seeking $40 million in liabilities as provided for in the original contract of $2.3 billion.

"We cannot phsically alter the (BNPP) plant until Geneva courts decide on the arbitration case," Lazaro pointed out.

Paterno said the President has instructed the panel to inform key members of Congress on the developments of the BNPP case.

Senate President Calls for 'International Diplomacy'

HK0403043693 Quezon City MALAYA in English 4 Mar 93 p 2

[Report by Minnie Cadelina]

[Text] Senate President Edgardo Angara said the country's foreign policy should now shift its focus towards international diplomacy after the myth of the Philippines' "special relationship" with the United States has broken down.

Speaking before the Philippine Ambassadors Association, Angara emphasized that the priority area should be Southeast Asia in response to the global trend of regional cooperations.

"Our Foreign Office needs to focus its attention—and its scarce resources of talent and money on the regions of our special interest... Of these regions, Southeast Asia is the closest to our hearts. It deserves the highest priority in our diplomacy," he said.

For several centuries "our alleged closed ties with the U.S. caused the Philippines to become withdrawn from the international community banking on our supercilious claim that we are democracy's showcase in Asia," the Senate president said.

However, he said, with the realities of the post-military base's era, "we must seek our friendship—and our trade—wherever we can. Even more important, we must reshape our ways of thought—our points of reference—to internationalist ways."

Angara recognized that with the creation of the Asean Free Trade Area (AFTA), ASEAN states took the first step towards restoring the natural unity, which was destroyed during the colonial period.

He predicted AFTA may usher in the creation of a Federation of Southeast Asia which would include not only the six core-states of ASEAN but the Indochinese states as well as Myanmar [Burma] and Papua New Guinea.

Angara said attention should also be given to China and Japan as well as the East Asian "Little Dragons" since they are the Philippines' "natural markets for our agricultural exports... our complementary skills—and our best hopes for foreign investment and technology transfer."

Security Concerns Stall Talks With RAM

HK0303140693 Quezon City ABC-DWET Television in English 1300 GMT 3 Mar 93

[From the "ABC-DWET News Program"]

[Text] Peace talks between the government and the Rebolusyonaryong Makabansa [Reform the Armed Forces Movement], or RAM, are again stalled. This time because of security concerns. This was revealed this evening by Professor Alfredo Tadiar, head of the government panel. Tadiar said the RAM panel, led by Colonel Edgardo Abenina, called for a recess to the talks because of concerns that the military security being provided to them may be a form of surveillance. Tadiar said the recess may end within one week.

[Begin Tadiar recording] We feel that if security is provided by the government, it is another form of surveillance, which the government panel feels is a legitimate concern that should be addressed. [end recording]

Ranking Red Scorpion Group Leader Surrenders

HK0303124793 Quezon City ABC-DWET Television in Tagalog 1000 GMT 3 Mar 93

[From the "ABC-DWET News Program"]

[Text] The second highest ranking leader of the Red Scorpion Group [RSG] surrendered to the Presidential Anti-Crime Commission [PACC] last night. Vice President and PACC Chairman Joseph Estrada accepted the surrender of Ernesto Palo, alias Comrade Jojo. Palo surrendered with Rosario de Leon, the widow of the slain RSG top leader Alfredo de Leon. De Leon called on other RSG members to surrender.

Meanwhile, Estrada stated he would file kidnaping charges against Leopoldo Mabilangan, or Comrade Hector, due to his involvement in RSG operations.

Ex-Assemblyman, 3 Others Killed in Boat Explosion

HK0303124693 Quezon City ABC-DWET Television in Tagalog 1000 GMT 3 Mar 93

[From the "ABC-DWET News Program"]

[Text] Former Mindanao Assemblyman Abdul Kadil Ibrahim and three others have been confirmed killed in an accident. The four died after the boat they were riding exploded in the sea near the island of Ubian. The other victims were Hashim Danalul, a provincial board member; Simu Haran, and Halal Amarin, the boat keeper. Twenty-six survived, including Governor Hadjiril Matba of Tawi Tawi. Local Government Secretary Raffy Alunan said the explosion was not due to political rivalry but was caused by a cigarette butt thrown into a gasoline-drenched part of the boat. Governor Matda was the boat skipper.

Semiconductors Lead 1992 Exports

HK0303033693 Quezon City MALAYA in English 3 Mar 93 p 7

[Text] The Philippines last year exported goods worth $9.69 billion, up by 9.6 percent from 1991's total of $8.84 billion.

Semiconductor devices remained the country's leading export product with earnings at $873 million or $25 million higher than the 1991 total.

Exports of coconut oil posted the highest gain of $176 million from the year-ago level to $475 million.

The top 10 exports include consigned finished electrical and electronic machinery and parts, consigned women's wears, electronic microcircuits, consigned children's and infants' wear, articles of apparel of textile fabrics, consigned men's wear, and ignition wiring sets.

Copper metal, although still in the list of the 10 principal exports, reflected a decline in value of $8 million.

Total imports for 1992 soared by 20.1 percent to $14.48 billion as against the 1991 level of $12.05 billion.

Imports of capital goods went up by 35.7 percent to $4 billion due to importations of power generating machines, telecommunication equipment an electrical machinery and office and EDP [electronic data processing] machines. Raw materials and intermediate goods imports rose by 15.2 percent to $6,742 million on account of the $790 million increase in the arrivals of semi-processed raw materials particularly manufactured goods ($421 million), materials/accessories for the manufacture of electronic equipment ($193 million). Imports of mineral fuels and lubricants posted an increase of $266 million to $2.050 billion due mainly to the higher demand for oil.

Purchases of consumer goods grew by 25 percent to $1.24 billion as imports of durable goods specifically passenger cars and motorized cycles accelerated.

Crude petroleum, arrivals of which rose by 16.2 percent from the previous year's level, continued to occupy the top slot among the ten principal imported products accounting for 11.2 percent or $1,627 million of aggregate imports.

Among the 10 principal imports which reflected growth were rice on a consignment basis, consigned materials/accessories for the manufacture of other electronic machinery and equipment, other consigned materials for the manufacture of semiconductor devices, and wheat. Moreover, airplanes mechanically propelled, of unladen weight exceeding 15,000 kg. replaced gifts, donations, and articles for relief from the top 10 list.

With these developments, the country's merchandise trade account for 1992 posted a deficit of $4,784 million, 49.0 percent higher than the $3,212 million gap recorded in the previous year.

Thailand

Son Sann: 'Huge Number' of Vietnamese in Cambodia

BK0403094793 Bangkok MATICHON in Thai 4 Mar 93 p 29

[Text] General Charan Kunlawanit, secretary general of the National Security Council, disclosed that Son Sann, leader of a noncommunist Khmer faction, recently called on him. They discussed the presence of Vietnamese troops in Cambodia. Citing the arrest of three Vietnamese soldiers in Cambodia, Son Sann said a huge number of Vietnamese troops in Battambang and Svay Rieng must also be arrested. Son Sann expressed his fear that the Khmer Rouge's refusal to participate in the upcoming general election might lead to unrest after the poll. He wanted Thailand to help prevent an outbreak of war in Cambodia. Gen. Charan Kunlawanit told the Cambodian guest that he believed that the United Nations will be able to work out a smooth general election and prevent any untoward incident.

Border Crossing Point With Cambodia To Open

BK0403110593 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 0000 GMT 4 Mar 93

[Text] Thai and Cambodian officials met in Surin Province yesterday to discuss the opening of a border crossing point for trade and communications between Thailand and Cambodia. The officials agreed to open the crossing point at Chong Chom in Tambon Dan of Kapchoeng District, Surin Province. The crossing point will be open for the first time on 13 and 24 March. After that, it will be open on Saturdays and Sundays on the first and third week of every month.

Group To Sign Cambodia Telecom Contracts 3 Mar

BK0303024993 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 3 Mar 93 p 17

[Text] Shinnawat Group chairman Dr Taksin Shinnawat will today sign two concession contracts with Cambodia to start telephone and television projects in that country.

He will sign the contracts with the Cambodian communications and advertising minister in Phnom Penh.

Shinnawat will be granted 20 years to operate telephone and television services in Cambodia on a profit-sharing basis.

Both projects are to begin within four months, Dr Taksin said.

The group has chartered an aircraft to bring VIP bankers and group executives to the ceremony.

It will spend about 100 million baht to install 10,000 telephone lines using a new technology known as the "wireless local loop." This will save time and money as cable laying will not be necessary.

Dr Taksin said the telephone system in Cambodia could be connected with the world through Intelsat of the United States which covers the Pacific.

But after the launching of the first THAICOM satellite in December, the system will be switched to THAICOM in 1994, he said.

The group will implement the first commercial television in Cambodia on Channel 5.

The project will cost about 100 million baht and a 10-kilowatt transmitter will be used to broadcast programmes, Dr Taksin said.

He said the telephone concession in Cambodia was the first investment by Shin International Co, the Shinnawat Group's holding firm.

The television concession is invested in by International Broadcasting Co (IBC).

He said telephone subscribers could choose to pay telephone fees in either US dollars or baht.

The television station in Cambodia can be turned into a home base of THAICOM.

2 Burmese Soldiers Freed, 5 Thais Still Held

BK0203022393 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 2 Mar 93 p 3

[Text] Tak—The two Burmese soldiers arrested on February 20 in Tha Song Yang District were released yesterday but five Thais still remain in the Burmese hands.

Task Force 34 commander Col Suwit Manmuan in Mae Sot district said after freeing the Burmese soldiers that the five Thais will be released today at 7 a.m. in Myawadi.

Col Suwit, who went to Myawadi yesterday, said on his return that he had been assured by the Burmese authorities that the Thais will be freed this morning.

Burmese troops at Palu camp opposite Tha Song Yang District on February 21 arrested nine Thai villagers who went to work at a logging camp in Burma and demanded that two Burmese soldiers arrested earlier by Thai authorities be freed in exchange for the release of the Thais.

The two Burmese, Tan Soe, 17, and Soe Hlaing, 17, both of the 356th Infantry Regiment, were arrested on February 20 in Tha Song Yang District's Ban Mae Ok Phalu for carrying weapons. They told police that they were Burmese villagers.

Four of the nine Thais were, however, freed on February 21.

The release of the two Burmese soldiers was based on an agreement reached earlier by the local Thai-Burmese Border Committee that if a Burmese soldier is caught in Thailand he would be disarmed and sent back across the border, an Interior Ministry source said.

The Thai police had detained them because they initially said they were ordinary soldiers.

Burma Releases Five, Averts Dispute

BK0303040393 Bangkok THE NATION in English 3 Mar 93 p A4

[Text] Rangoon yesterday freed five Thai villagers a day after Tak provincial authorities released two Burmese soldiers arrested last month for illegal entry and possession of arms, a Tak deputy governor said yesterday.

Deputy Governor Prathip Ngamnin said the Burmese army handed over the five villagers at the bank of the Moei River opposite Baan Rim Muey in Tak's Mae Sot district.

Yesterday's release came nearly two weeks after the Thais were detained by Burma.

It ended a local conflict that nearly escalated into a national dispute. The incident initially was linked to a recent visit to Thailand by a group of Nobel Peace prize winners campaigning against Rangoon.

The five villagers, who were among nine Thais abducted by Burmese troops on Feb 20, arrived in the province yesterday morning. Burmese officials fined them 7,500 kyats (Btl,875) for illegal entry, Prathip said. The four other villagers were released a day after their capture.

Rangoon troops abducted the nine Thais and held them to win the freedom of the two Burmese soldiers, who were arrested after they were found in possession of hand grenades at a temple festival in Thailand.

The two Burmese soldiers were released unconditionally on Monday to maintain good relations between the two countries, Prathip said.

Prathip said a Burmese commander told him that Rangoon would take legal action against any Thai who entered its territory without a permit. The detained Thais reportedly slipped into Burma's Myawadi province to illegally cut Burmese trees.

From now on, any Burmese or Thai found illegally felling Burmese trees will be severely punished, Prathip said the commander told him.

After their release, the five villagers appeared to be exhausted and said they had suffered from insomnia, according to Prathip, who added that they were wearing the same clothes that they had on when they were captured.

Tak authorities will soon hold a briefing for district chiefs and precinct leaders whose jurisdiction lies in close proximity to the Thai-Burma border. The officials will be asked to instruct their villagers not to cross into Burma without a permit.

Burma Border Crossings Restricted

BK0403024593 Bangkok THE NATION in English 4 Mar 93 p A2

[Text] The Interior Ministry has ordered the placing of maximum restrictions on Thai villagers' entry to Burma out of concern that they could be endangered by armed confrontations between Burmese troops and ethnic minority groups an informed source said yesterday.

The ministry has issued an order to the governors of all provinces bordering Burma, instructing them to warn local residents not to cross into the neighbouring country, the source said.

The governors were also instructed to inform all Thai companies that have logging concessions in Burma to suspend their operations. A time frame was not fixed for the travel and logging restrictions, he said.

The ministry said if any Thai villagers had to cross into Burma for very important errands, they must have official permission from the district chiefs, according to the source.

The restrictions, he said, came as Burmese troops are preparing a dry season offensive against the armed forces of ethnic minority groups fighting for autonomy from Rangoon.

The Burmese troops have not yet started attacking the guerrillas this year. Thai authorities have viewed this as unusual, considering the regularity with which the offensives have begun over the past several years, the source said.

He said the National Security Council has observed that it is common for the Burmese army to reshuffle the commanders of its forces responsible for the areas where the rebel groups are based along the Thai border.

The agency also warned that it could be difficult for Thai officials to negotiate with Burmese troops for the release of any Thai villagers who may be held in Burma after the old Burmese army commanders whom they knew were replaced, said the source.

The travel and logging restrictions were ordered after Burma on Tuesday freed five Thai villagers who had been taken into custody.

Deputy Premier Meets SRV Envoy on Rice Trade

BK0403143193 Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in Thai 1030 GMT 4 Mar 93

[Text] Speaking to reporters after his meeting with SRV Ambassador Nguen Trung yesterday, Deputy Prime Minister Amnuai Wirawan said he had discussions with the Vietnamese envoy about joint investment issues and ways to prevent price-cutting competition between Thailand and Vietnam in the international rice markets. Thailand and Vietnam can increase their cooperation in rice trade. He said: We will hold consultations in different areas, especially in the exchange of information. In the past, rice-producing countries were forced by buyers to sell rice at low prices.

The deputy prime minister said Vietnam is also aware of the problem and does not want to sell its rice at low prices. However, that country has the problem of rice storage after harvesting. Thailand wants international organizations such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund to assist Vietnam in this regard. So far, the U.S. trade sanction against Vietnam has been the obstacle. It is hoped that the new U.S. administration will change its policy toward Vietnam soon.

Talks With U.S. on Garment Export Quota Fail

BK0303031393 Bangkok THE NATION in English 3 Mar 93 p B1,4

[Text] Thai and the US trade negotiators have failed to strike an agreement on the export quota of Thai twills and satin fabrics to America due to a huge gulf in the figures proposed by the two sides.

Charae Chutharattanakun, director-general of the Foreign Trade Department, said the US Trade Representative (USTR) last week proposed to limit Thai exports in category 617 to an annual 9.9 million square-yards of the fabrics. Thai officials wanted to export 20 million square yards a year.

Thai twill and satin exporters are not subject to quota limits at present. However, as Thai export volumes have experienced a relative increase in the past few years the USTR last year asked Thai officials to control its export levels.

US industry had previously voiced its discontent over the burgeoning volume of Thai twills and satin exports which, they claim, jeopardize the prospects of local industries.

In the absence of a quota agreement with America, last year Thailand exported around nearly 17 million square yards of twills and satin to the United States.

After failing to come up with an export quota during the February 24-25 meeting in Washington, US and Thai officials are scheduled to hold more talks in the near future.

In addition, a bilateral agreement concerning general textile export quotas—which does not include satin and twills—between Thailand and the US is due to expire at the end of this year. However, officials of both countries have yet to to talk about extending it.

Textile and garments are one of Thailand's top three active export sectors with an annual value of Bt152.4

billion. The sector is expected to grow by 15.6 per cent this year and the United States is its single biggest market.

Late last year, the Thai government agreed an extension of the bilateral textile export quota with the European Community—Thai exports can now enjoy a growth rate of 1.5-3 per cent a year.

Referring to the recent bilateral textile export quota agreement between Thailand and Austria Charae said that Gerhard Wass, Austria's under secretary at the Federation Ministry for Economic Affairs, had signed a contract to extend the textile export quota with Thailand for another two years, until 1994.

Under the new agreement, Austria has set quotas on only one type of eight different lines of trousers which Thailand exports to the country.

Austrian officials will assess export values of the other seven before setting a quota on Thai exports.

Japan Urges Open Market Access for Investors

BK0303030193 Bangkok THE NATION in English 3 Mar 93 p B1

[Text] Japan has stepped up its effort to press Thailand to liberalize the country's trade in services sectors, and to allow Japanese to own 100 per cent equity of their businesses in Thailand.

Japan's Commercial Office Permanent Mission of Thailand recently informed the Commerce Ministry that Japan will urge Thailand to further open market access on services for Japanese investors during the latter's visit during March 12-14, said a source in the Commerce Ministry.

The Japanese team is coming from Geneva, comprising officials from the Foreign Ministry, Ministry of International Trade and Industry, Transport, Labour, and Construction.

The Thai officials are under strong pressure from the major economies, such as the USA and European Community, to liberalize its service sector, including banking and finance, transportation and telecommunication, and insurance industries.

EC officials asked Thailand to allow its investors to hold more than 40 per cent in the telecom business, and also sought permission to hold 100 per cent shares in a local company.

Australian officials also recently asked the Thai government to allow its citizens to operate the telecom business here.

The Japanese goal is to open Thailand's service industry through a bilateral approach according to a Japanese Embassy official who declined to be named.

"The negotiation is in the multilateral context, but since the Uruguay Round [of the GATT talks] has not scheduled service liberalization talks for the near future, Japan is taking up its own initiative to negotiate with Asean countries, including Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore," said the Japanese Embassy official.

"We very much hope to conclude an agreement to liberalize trade in services in the multilateral framework, relying on informal exchanges of views," the official asserted.

Japan is also interested to find out more on the issue of ownership ratio of Japanese businesses established in Thailand.

(According to the Thai investment law, foreigners are forbidden to own more than 49 per cent of the company's shares.)

Japan wants its citizens to be allowed to hold more than 49 per cent, making the Japanese partners major shareholders in any Thai businesses. Bilateral talks on this issue had earlier taken place.

According to the source in Commerce Ministry, once the key negotiators of the Uruguay Round settle their differences, Thailand will be ready to comply with the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (Gatt) rules to open wide access to trade in services.

However, it is unlikely at the moment to say which service sector will be liberalized, the Thai official noted.

He also added that Thailand, in return, should be granted the same privileges as demanded by USA or Japan. For example, Japan should open its rice market to Thai exports, and the Americans should grant more aviation rights for the Thai national carrier in return.

New Air Service Agreement With PRC Approved

BK0303050293 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in English 0000 GMT 3 Mar 93

[Text] The cabinet yesterday instructed the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to proceed with the exchanging of diplomatic notes on air service agreement with the People's Republic of China as proposed by the Ministry of Transport and Communications. The agreement covers the amendments on route, flight frequency, capacity, and carriers. Thailand will ask to add either Shanghai or Guangzhou or Shenzhen or her route in exchange for the adding of Chiang Rai on China's airline schedule. Both sides can operate 25 flights per week with A-300's or B-767's. Multiple carriers can be designated by both countries. The amendments are seen to open up two-way communications and more exchanges between Thailand and the People's Republic of China in the near future.

Canadian Minister Promotes Nuclear Power Exports

BK0203020193 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 2 Mar 93 p 17

[Text] Canada's Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources Bill McKnight is in Thailand to help promote Canadian nuclear reactor exports to Thailand.

McKnight is believed to have raised the issue during his meeting yesterday afternoon at the Government House with Dr Sawit Phothiwihok, Minister of the Prime Minister's Office who is in charge of energy policies.

The visit, part of his Asian mission, underscores Canada's concerted effort to land contracts worth well over 100 billion baht to build up to six nuclear power stations, with a total generating capacity of 6,000 megawatts, for Thailand over the next decade.

Canada, through the nuclear giant Atomic Energy Canada Ltd (AECL) and aid agency Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), has offered "technical assistance" on nuclear technology and information to Thai government agencies.

In his speech to members of the Thai-Canadian Chamber of Commerce yesterday, McKnight claimed that Canada's reactors were the best in the world and Canada was the third-largest exporter of nuclear reactors. Turning to Canada's nuclear safety record, he cited the Candu 6 reactor in the eastern Canadian province of New Brunswick as having the highest lifetime efficiency rating of any reactor in the world, at 90.5 percent.

Canada continually invests in design improvements to the reactors. AECL recently announced plans to complete the design of the new modular Candu 3 reactor, a 450-megawatt heavy-water reactor that will be built in less time and at a lower overall cost than its competitor, he said.

Canada is serious about its commitment to the development of nuclear technology for peaceful purposes, he said, adding that there are more than 30 Candu units from AECL either in operation or under construction all over the world. He said Canada's approach to nuclear "cooperation" differed from that of many other nuclear reactor exporters.

"While others may emphasise quick sales or the 'turnkey' approach, we prefer business on the basis of long-term partnerships and technology transfer," he explained.

The Canadian minister added that Canada was prepared to share its knowledge of regulatory framework and information with the Thai Government.

Speaking on behalf of AECL, he said the company had proven itself as a potential vender to supply a nuclear reactor for research purposes to Thailand.

On the general trade issue, McKnight said Canada wanted to improve the trade relationship with Thailand and other countries on the Pacific Rim. He described the Thai-Canadian trade as healthy, with Canadian exports to Thailand in 1991 amounting to $352.6 million and imports from Thailand $499.5 million. He said the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) was not designed to restrict trade flow from other countries. He invites Asian investors to join Canadian business to tap opportunities in the whole North American market of 360 million people.

Vietnam

Hanoi Rejects UNTAC Charges on Troop Presence

BK0403093793 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 3 Mar 93

[Station commentary: "Unfounded and Unjustifiable Charges"]

[Text] A spokesman for the UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] said in Phnom Penh on 1 March that UNTAC had identified three Vietnamese who once served in the Vietnamese Armed Forces in Cambodia and who still remain behind in Cambodia, that they have been issued Cambodian identification papers by the Phnom Penh authority, and that they are married—to Cambodian women—with children. The UNTAC spokesman also claimed that UNTAC regards these three persons as members of a foreign force and suggested that the Vietnamese government accept them back as Vietnamese citizens.

Faced with this claim by the UNTAC spokesman, the first thing we should consider here is how does one decide if a military force is a foreign one and more specifically, how does one argue that the military force in question is the Vietnamese armed forces when the Paris agreement on Cambodia is already in place?

Article 8 of the Paris agreement on Cambodia reads: A military force can be regarded as foreign if it is made up of foreigners and placed under the command and direction of a foreign government.

Mr. Akashi, special emissary of the UN Secretary General and the head of the UNTAC, on 9 September 1992 also gave an official definition that a foreign force is a group of armed foreigners organized for a certain collective purpose and placed under the control and direction of foreign authorities.

In a 3 August 1992 memorandum on foreign forces and on the duty of UNTAC within the framework of the Paris agreement, UNTAC also affirmed this definition and rejected any attempts to expand the definition of a foreign force in a way not in conformity with the Paris agreement on Cambodia. Consequently, based on those principles already cited, the claim about the three Vietnamese by the UNTAC spokesman has no legal basis with which to consider them as members of the Vietnamese armed forces. Even the UNTAC spokesman also admitted that these three individuals already returned to their civilian life during the period 1983-85, that they are married—to Cambodian women—with children, and that they have been granted Cambodian identification papers. As they have become naturalized Cambodians of Vietnamese origin, the Vietnamese state has no control over them.

The position of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam in this matter is very clear. We are determined to reject this argument and attribution and can in no way accept them back. We affirm that any attempt to regard these three persons as members of a foreign force and to demand the sending of them back to Vietnam is against the spririt and letter of the Paris agreement and the very definition of UNTAC itself and runs counter to international documents on human rights.

We have sufficient legal basis to demand that these Cambodian citizens of Vietnamese origin be treated and receive the same benefits as other Cambodian citizens of other foreign origins now residing in Cambodia.

In his 2 March statement, a spokesman for the Vietnamese Foreign Ministry once again affirmed that it is the unswerving stance of Vietnam to strictly respect the Paris agreement on Cambodia and scrupulously implement those articles of the agreement in connection with Vietnam. Right from 1982, Vietnam began its troop withdrawal from Cambodia. Vietnam fulfilled this move by September 1989. It is Vietnam's goodwilled attitude that created favorable conditions for the signing of the Paris agreement on a political solution to the Cambodian issue. Vietnam has since never sent its troops back to Cambodia under any form. UNTAC and Prince Sihanouk have also on several occasions affirmed that there is no evidence of the continued presence of Vietnamese troops in Cambodia. Vietnam's attitude of goodwill has won the world public's acclaim and recognition.

It should also be recalled that those forces, including the Khmer Rouge, attempting to undermine the process of implementing the Paris agreement on Cambodia always claim that there remain Vietnamese troops in Cambodia. They have committed repeated massacres against Vietnamese residents in Cambodia and now they have created another issue in which they demand the repatriation of three Cambodian citizens of Vietnamese origin who are married to Cambodian women with children and who have long ago been given identification papers by the State of Cambodia.

This claim is a premeditated move aimed at paving the way for new activities to oppose the Paris agreement and obstruct the general election in Cambodia as it is drawing near.

Now more than ever before, we believe that all the signatories to the Paris agreement on Cambodia and the UNTAC should implement the Paris agreement on Cambodia scrupulously and strictly. If the Khmer Rouge's wrongdoings are allowed to continue, there will be a danger of fomenting anarchy in Cambodia. The world community cannot accept this attempt as it fails to meet not only the aspirations of the Cambodian people for peace and national reconciliation but also the desire of the Southeast Asian people to strive to make this region a zone of peace, stability, security, cooperation, and development.

Vice Premier Views Cooperation in SE Asia

BK0403061593 Hanoi VNA in English 0553 GMT 4 Mar 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 4—Vietnam will do its best to promote its cooperation with the ASEAN countries and the cooperation among countries in the region in order to make of Southeast Asia a stable and prosperous region in the 21st century. This came in a remark by Vice Prime Minister Nguyen Khanh after his return from the seminar 'toward a Southeast Asia in the 21st century' held recently in Bangkok. In an interview with the daily NHAN DAN, vice-premier Nguyen Khanh stressed that all speakers at the seminar had pointed to the need for Southeast Asian countries to cooperate and ally themselves on the principle of respect for independence, sovereignty and the national characteristics of each country, in the interest of economic development and the socio-political regime of each country. In other words, this consists in forging unity on the basis of diversification and mutual understanding and respect. The participating countries also agreed to cooperate for the common cause of building a stable and prosperous Southeast Asia while retaining their bilateral relations with countries outside the region in conformity with the specific requirements and national interests of each country. Of course, such relations should not harm the common interests of the whole region.' [no opening quotation mark as received] Nguyen Khanh went on: 'Vietnam is undertaking renovation to take the country forward at a quick pace. It is expanding its open-door external policy to all countries in the international community. It has worked out positive policies and measures to promote the friendship and cooperation with the nations in Southeast Asia. Vietnam's accession to the Bali Treaty of Amity and Cooperation and its acquisition of the observer status of ASEAN mark an important step of development in the friendship and cooperation in the region'. The vice premier stressed that the questions left by history as well as the newly-arising questions must be solved step by step through consultation and negotiations on the basis of respect for the interests of each country as well as of the whole region.

Premier Attends Justice Ministry Conference

BK0403081993 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GM[illegible] 3 Mar 93

[Text] In Hanoi from 25 February to 3 March, the Ministry of Justice held a national conference to review

1992 work and discuss orientatations and tasks for 1993. The conference spent time discussing work programs of the justice sector aimed at satisfactorily fulfilling its duties and appropriately contributing to the nation's renovation undertaking.

On 3 March, Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet attended and addressed the conference. He stressed that 1993 is a pivotal year for implementing the 1991-95 five-year development plan and the socioeconomic strategy up to the year 2000. In this spirit, last December, the government set forth a program of action to improve work and strengthen supervision of the justice sector in 1993. These tasks will directly or indirectly support activities of the legal agencies and court sector.

The prime minister was delighted to note that the government program of action has been concretized in line with tasks and duties of the justice sector. He also contributed many ideas to improve the tasks. The prime minister said: The Vietnamese nation is enjoying good opportunities while facing great ordeals. Whether the renovation undertaking, the national construction program, and the socioeconomic strategy meet with success or not depends chiefly on achievements in building the Vietnamese law-governed state. The role and tasks of the justice sector are great and heavy; I hope that you, comrades, will bring past achievements into full play, improve your work quality, strengthen unity and cooperation, and strive to surge forward to fulfill all tasks entrusted by the party and people.

1,230 Party Members Dismissed for Corruption

BK0403091393 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 3 Mar 93

[Text] Intensifying measures against corruption and smuggling, An Giang has stripped 1,230 persons of their party membership for involvment in corruption. An Giang is also aware of the link between anticorruption with debt collection work. Party members whose work is related to debt solvency and collection will also be strictly dealth with, if there are reports from the people about their violations.

The province has transformed 200 companies at provincial and district levels into 12 state economic units, which are allowed to conduct direct export. It already formed the Steering Committee for Debt Solvency to clarify corruption cases and file charges against involved party members.

So far, An Giang has to collect 334 billion dong in debts and 224 billion dong to settle. It has instructed the debt solvency committees at all levels to finalize cases involving key cadres of all levels.

City Forms Friendship Association With PRC

BK0303144593 Hanoi VNA in English 1422 GMT 3 Mar 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 3—The chapter of the Vietnam-China Friendship Association in Ho Chi Minh City made its first public appearance this morning.

Present at the inauguration were Le Quang Chanh, head of the city Party's Committee External Relations Commission, and more than 100 representatives of various branches and offices and of the Hoa ethnic community in the city.

The Chinese consul general in the city was also present.

First Processing Zone To Be Built in Da Nang

BK2802081493 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 26 Feb 93

[Text] A ceremony was held in Da Nang city yesterday afternoon to mark the signing of a memorandum of understanding between the city and Malaysia's Makok Holdings on the establishment of a partnership corporation to handle building the infrastructure of the Da Nang city processing zone.

Mr. Nguyen Hai, director of the Da Nang city Processing Zone Development Company, and Mr. Datuk Michael Chen, director of Malaysia's Makok Holdings, signed the document in the presence of Comrade Tran Dinh Dam, chairman of the Quang Nam-Da Nang provincial people's committee, and other comrade leaders in Quang Nam-Da Nang Province and Da Nang city.

The processing zone will be built in the An Don-Nuoc Man area. The start of the joint venture will mark the building of the first processing zone in Quang Nam-Da Nang Province.

Ministry Reviews Radio, Television Performances

BK0103075793 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 28 Feb 93

[Text] According to a Radio Voice of Vietnam correspondent, the Ministry of Culture and Information held a conference in Ho Chi Minh City today, 28 February, to review its radio and television broadcasting performances in 1992 and discuss activities to be carried out in 1993.

The conference was attended by the directors of various radio and television stations throughout the country.

Last year the radio and television sector was noted for its remarkable efforts. Thanks to via-satellite broadcasts and to the network of relay stations, radio and televisions signals now can reach many remote and highly inaccessible areas, thus ensuring timely dissemination of reports on various political events and socioeconomic activities and effectively serving the party's renovation undertaking. Radio Voice of Vietnam and the Vietnam

Television also offered international language programs which won acclaim from listeners at home and abroad. However, radio and television work continues to show some constraints. For instance, its contents still fail to meet growing demands of listeners. The cooperation between the central and local stations is still not close enough and there is a failure to develop the strengths of local stations.

The conference spent a great deal of time discussing ways to implement various tasks for 1993 in accordance with the resolution of the party Central Committee's fourth plenum in an effort to ensure increasing renovation for the radio and television-related undertaking to serve the cause of building the country and improving the people's intellectual standard.

Conference on Broadcasting, Television Opens

BK0203151593 Hanoi VNA in English 1454 GMT 2 Mar 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 2—The Ministry of Culture and Information held in Ho Chi Minh City on March 1st a conference to review radio and television broadcasting in 1992 and discuss measures to raise the quality of this work in furtherance of the resolution approved at the 4th Plenum of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee.

Present at the conference were Ha Dang, member of the party Central Committee, head of its Ideology and Culture Commission, Tran Hoan, member of the party Central Committee and Minister of Culture and Information, and directors of central and local radio and television stations throughout the country.

Vietnam now has 53 provincial and municipal radio stations and 290 FM stations at district level. In the field of television, besides central and provincial stations, there are 177 relay stations each with a capacity of from 10-100W and 283 television receiving only (TVRO) monitors.

The conference recognized the need to further broaden the radio and television network so that by 1995 80 percent of the population in the country could enjoy television programmes, and to and more [as received] programmes in the languages of ethnic minorities.

For the current year, the conference decided to ensure that 70 percent of the population could have access to radio programmes and 60 percent to the central television.

Australia

Evans: PNG Relations 'In Excellent Shape'

BK0403075093 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 4 Mar 93

[Text] Australia says attacks by Papua New Guinea's [PNG] foreign minister, John Kaputin, will have no long-term significance on diplomatic relations between the two countries. Mr. Kaputin has demanded a full apology from Australia for what he said was Australia's arrogance in flying two African asylum-seekers back to PNG. Senator Evans said he had sent a letter to Mr. Kaputin but would not discuss whether he had apologized.

[Begin Evans recording] I think this is something that is better resolved behind the scenes. There is a real issue here about immigration policy and Australian concern about the Torres Straits being increasingly used as a way into the country which led to quite a strong reaction on the part of our immigration authorities. That, in turn, led to a quite a strong counter reaction from the PNG authorities, but the overall relationship really is in excellent shape and I don't think this issue ought to be allowed to disturb it. [end recording]

Senator Evans said he did not think Australia's mining investments in PNG face any serious risks. He said there was discussion about an increase in PNG equity in major resource projects but this could be resolved commercially. Senator Evans said the Australian Government should not be involved in mining discussions at this stage.

Deficit Jumps Almost 3 Percent to $168 Billion

BK0403102493 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0803 GMT 4 Mar 93

[From the "International Report" program]

[Text] In the run up to Australia's federal elections next week, both campaigning political parties have received a reminder of the country's growing foreign debt. Results for the December quarter last year show that net debt jumped nearly 3 percent to just over $168 billion. The result was within expectations and most of the increase was due to the weaker dollar. Fincance correspondent Phillip Lasker examines the latest figures and the importance of foreign debt.

[Begin Lasker recording] It was America's growing foreign debt and budget deficit which forced US President Clinton's dramatic turnaround a few weeks ago, when he not only ditched his promised tax cuts for middle income earners but announced huge tax increases to accompany spending cuts. His plan for America combines short time (?pump priming) and job creation with medium term proposals for reducing the budget deficit.

Today's foreign debt result gives us the latest running total on our national bank card bill. A result which both parties will exploit for their own ends. To the coalition, the spectacular bottom line is important as our net debt, that is money owed to foreigners less the money they owe us, approaches the $200 billion mark. The government may find comfort in the reasons for the increase. Was the jump in foreign debt less then expected. Is it due to the weaker dollar rather than a deterioration in outright performance? Either way, an election campaign is no place to talk about serious efforts to address Australia's foreign debt. We will have to wait until after the election to find out how the bill will be paid. Perhaps, it will come in the form of higher interest rates, spending cuts, increase taxes of some sort, or the scrapping of election pledges to cut taxes.

The Reserve Bank, which supposedly was going to cut interest rates, now seems to be concerned about the election bidding war. In an address to the American Chamber of Commerce in Brisbane this morning, Reserve Bank Governor Bernie Fraser underline his debt concerns. He claimed the outlook over the next few years is a relatively high public sector deficit and although the recovery will help reduce the shortfall, major efforts are going to be needed to avoid large ongoing deficits. That can only mean upward pressure on interest rates in the long term unles the government increases its own savings pool by cutting spending or increasing taxes. [end recording]

New Zealand

Minister Tells Russians Debt Must Be Cleared

LD0403112593 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0700 GMT 4 Mar 93

[Text] A Russian delegation to New Zealand headed by Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy has been told that debts of $212 million must be paid before normal bilateral trade can resume. New Zealand Agriculture Minister, John Falloon, said the Russian delegation had expressed the desire to repay the debt but no concrete promises had been made. Mr. Falloon said he had been quite firm in telling the Russians that the debt had to be paid before trade could begin again. The money is owed on New Zealand's wool, butter, and milk powder sales.

Mr. Falloon said Russian and New Zealand officials would be discussing possible barter sales centred mainly on agricultural products. The Australian Wheat Board said yesterday it would restart grain exports to Russia after Moscow resumed payments for wheat shipped more than a year ago.